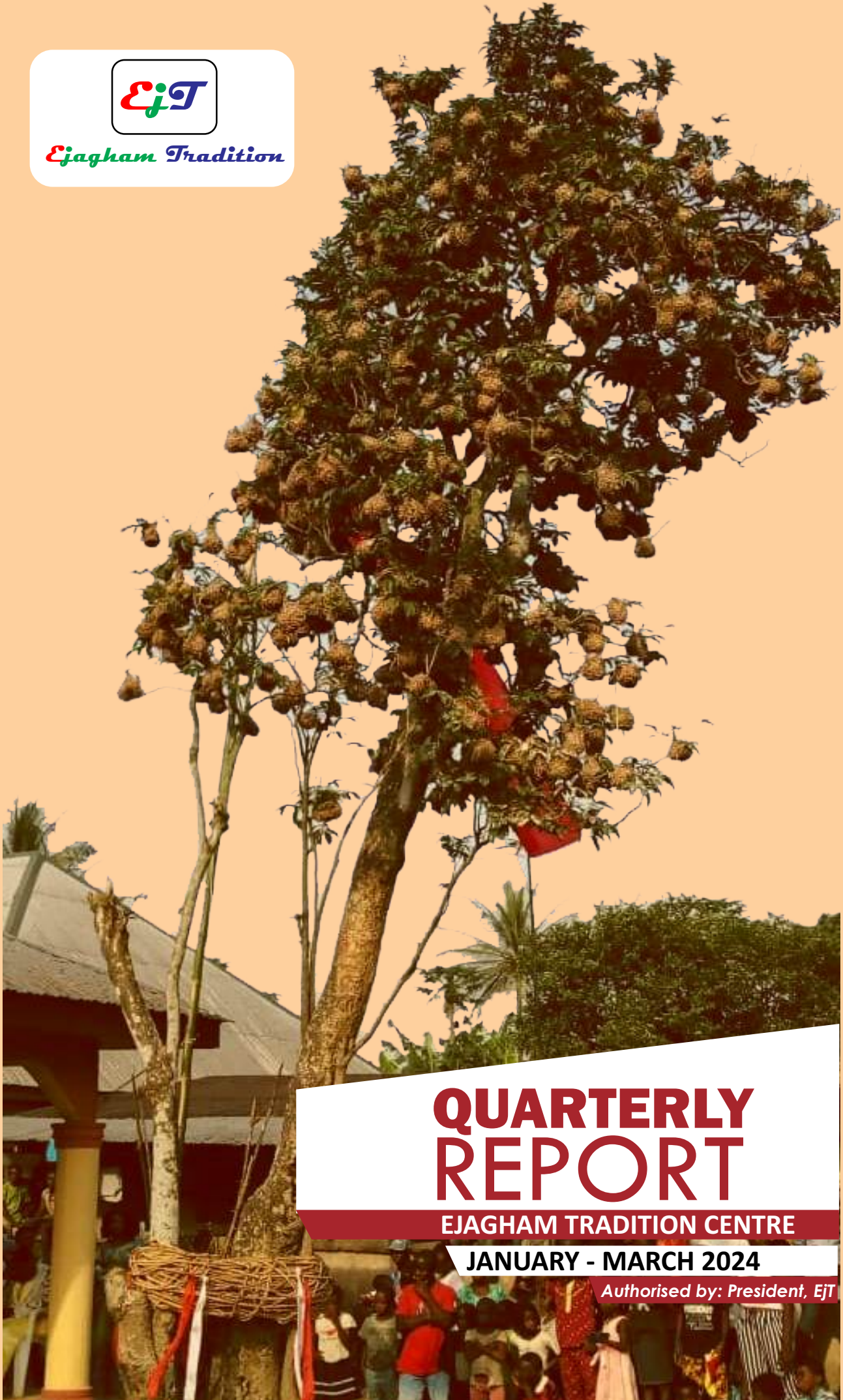




*Ejagham Tradition*



# QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

*Authorised by: President, EjT*

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## 1.0 ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION

### 1.1 OUR MISSION

*“To Host, Promote, Harness and Update Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) in order to Safeguard and Preserve Ejagham Tradition as a true Legacy of Ejagham People.”*

### 1.2 OUR VISION

*To be a one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE)*

### 1.3 OUR OBJECTIVES

- *Safeguard and preserve the cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Protect the secret and sacred cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Encourage Research and Development (R&D) on Ejagham tradition.*
- *Ensure that the none-secret and non-sacred knowledge of Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) are globally available and easily accessible.*
- *Explore the Socio-economic potential of Ejagham tradition for the empowerment of Ejagham People and Local Communities (EPLC).*

## 2.0 FROM THE PRESIDENT

### 2.1. EjT: An Ejagham Stakeholders Forum (ESF)



From our antecedence hitherto, it is obvious by now that EjT was established with the entirety of Ejagham people in focus, Qua, Akamkpa, Etung, Bakor, Njemaya, Ngunaya, Obang, Ejagham in the Diaspora and related stakeholders. Our rhetoric, literature, actions, etc. attest to this assertion. In fact, the graphic representation in what we refer to as EjT Stakeholder Galaxy is a clearer testament.

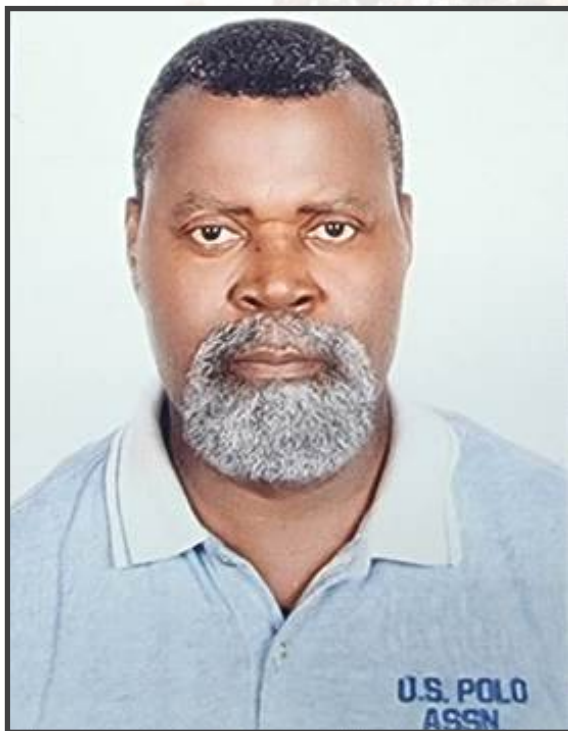
When I looked up the meaning of the word Stakeholder, I saw several definitions that all implied the same thing. My understanding of it was that; *a stakeholder is a person, group or organisation with vested interest in an activity or business and this person, group or organisation can*

*either affect or be affected by the activity or business.* Given the above understanding of Stakeholders, EjT is an **Ejagham Stakeholders Forum** and so depicted in the EjT Stakeholders Galaxy.

Our common vested interest or business here is to Host, Promote, Harness, and Update Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions (ETPCE) in order to Safeguard and Preserve Ejagham Tradition as a true Legacy of Ejagham People. I am particularly interested and keen on emphasising the tail end of my understanding i.e. that the *“person, group or organisation can either affect or be affected by the activity or business.”*

As an EjT stakeholder, we share the same vested interest to promote Ejagham heritage for reasons we have elaborated severally and continue to do so. It is clear by now that the emphasis here is that as an EjT Stakeholder your active participation, engagement, support, help in promoting Ejagham heritage can and will **affect** the status, meaning, relevance, importance, survival, flourishing, Identity, etc. of Ejagham. On the flip side, a display of inactivity, nonchalance, negligence to promoting Ejagham heritage will have far reaching consequences that will **affect** not only you but generations after you as well.

Even though we may not be here to experience what future generations will experience due to our individual and/or collective negligence to promote, protect and preserve our heritage from what Ejagham is experiencing today, we are smart enough to imagine that future.



**Engr. Chris Anom** CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST, FRINA

As for me, the latter is a non-starter and I firmly chose and commit to the earlier. I enjoin every Ejagham person, group and organisation to join EjT

in Documenting, Digitalising and Disseminating Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions.

The Stakeholders Galaxy, though not exhaustive, captures a reasonable range of activities and groups of human endeavour. You really do not have to look too hard to find a bubble in which you can and should actively participate in, taking advantage of its uniqueness, to promote Ejagham heritage.

Ejagham is a people with the unique attributes which they are associated with namely Ejagham heritage. We are now used to saying "**Proudly Ejagham**". If our forebears were anything other than active in shaping our heritage, we would not be saying "Proudly Ejagham" today. It is OK to be proudly Ejagham, a people and their unique attributes but more than that, you need to be an active member of EjT to "**Make Ejagham Proud of You**". Let's synergise, apply our knowledge, skills, positions, professional standing, societal status, networks etc. to making Ejagham heritage a true legacy of Ejagham people.

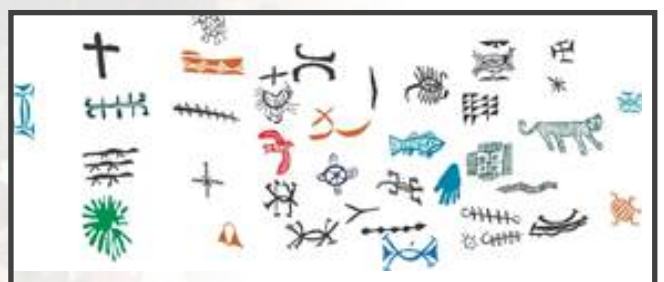
Remember, we are stronger together than we would ever be divided.

Jighi jighi, nne ajigha ejeh – Revere your own.

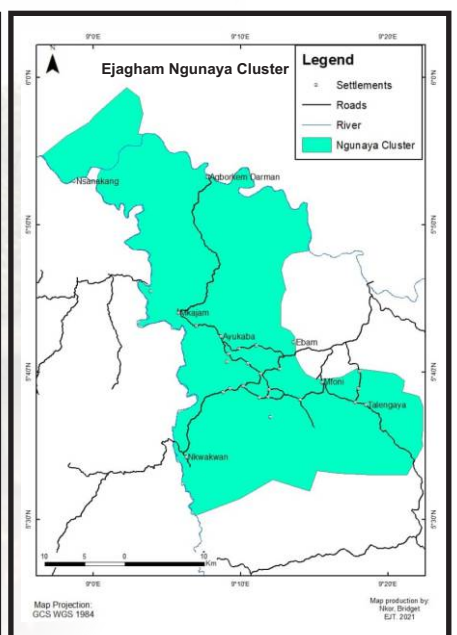
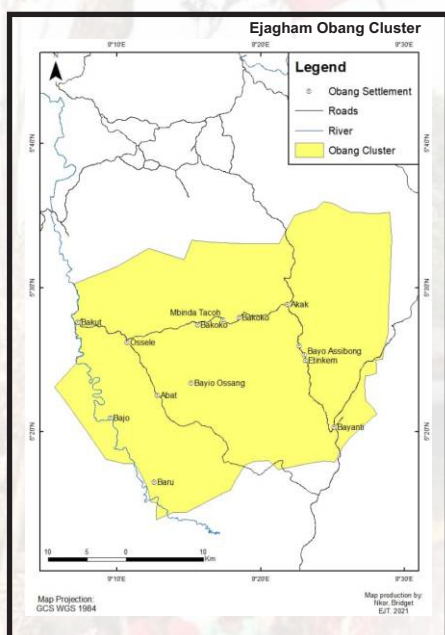
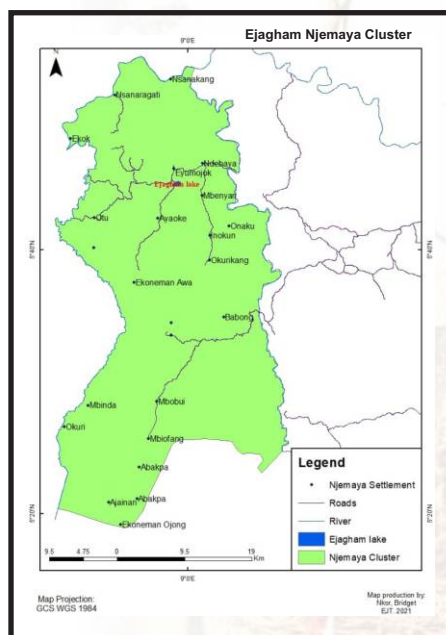
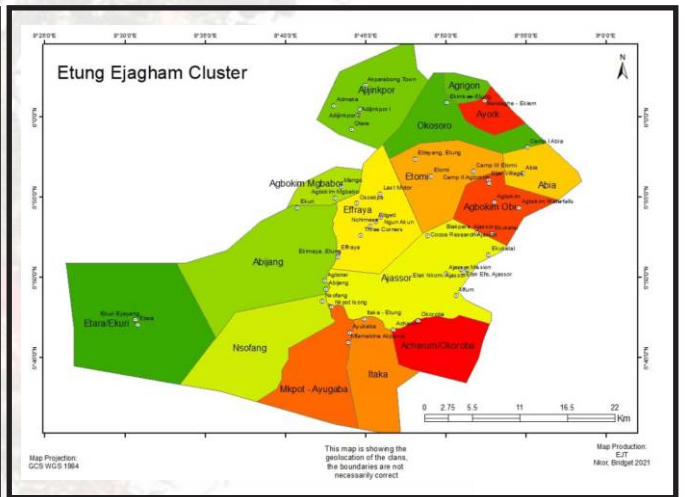
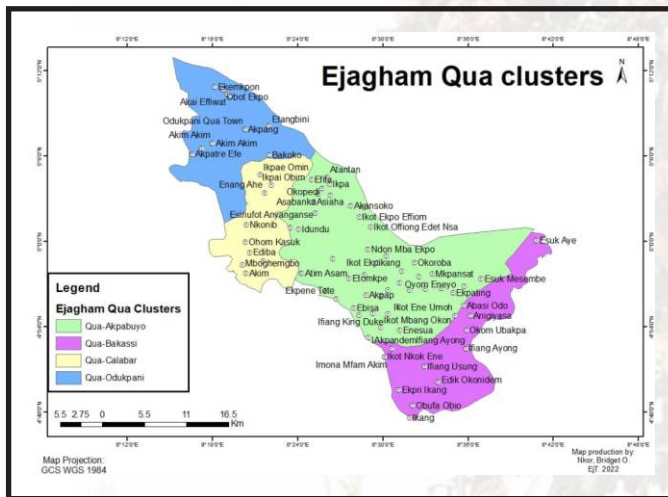
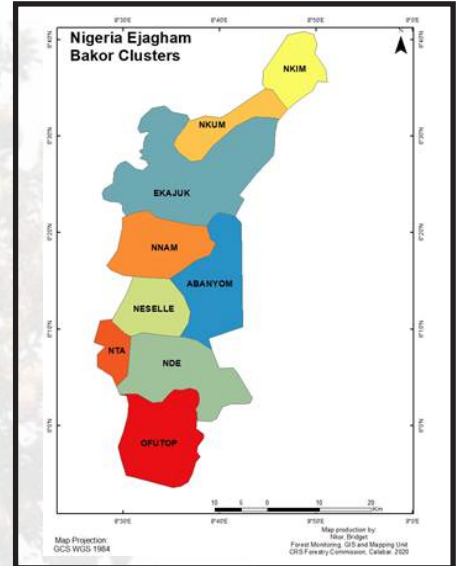
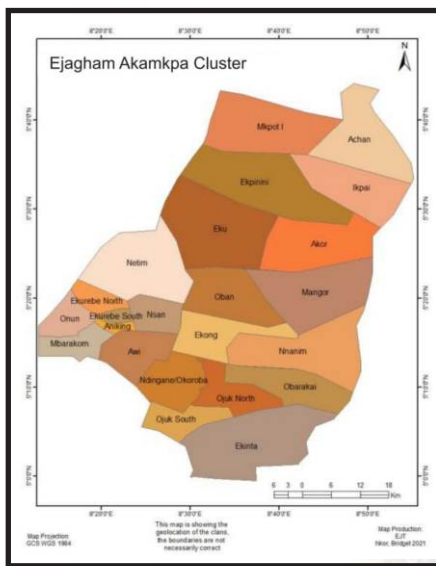
Ekup Na Nkad

*Enom Le M.*

**Engr. Chris Anom**  
President



# 3.0 EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



Ejagham Clusters: <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/ejagham-clusters/>

## 4.0 Q1 2024 ACTIVITIES

### 4.1. Ejagham Language Codification (ELC)

#### 4.1.1. Harmonised Ejagham Language Orthography - Launch Planning Committee (HELO-LPC)

According to Ntufam Dr. Emmanuel Ntuyang from Oban in Ejagham Akamkpa cluster,

*"Nothing in recent times has excited me half as much as the promise this project holds; especially given the stage it is at the moment. Prospects of regaining our cultural lost grounds in our life time and handing over to our children, indeed 'a banner without stain' in this regard seems very much within reach. We owe this to the resoluteness, unwavering commitment and uncommon patriotism of the EjT President, Engr. Anom and others who have made the needed sacrifice at ensuring that this comes to fruition. It does not seem far off any longer."*

We couldn't agree any more or less with Ntufam Ntuyang. So in a journey that started in 2020, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 the Tech Team advised EjT that we should be on our marks to invite the Nigerian Educational and Research Development Council (NERDC) for verification and eventual approval of the proposed Harmonised Ejagham Language Orthography (HELO). Truly, it does not seem far off any longer, if we work at it.

For the above reason, in February 2024 EjT commissioned the Harmonised Ejagham Language Orthography - Launch Planning Committee (HELO-LPC) to plan and executed the visit by NERDC to verify and eventually approve the proposed HELO. Below is the composition of the members HELO-LPC saddled with this responsibility. They will need your unreserved support to take us through the home stretch of this journey. The Team includes EjT members across Ejagham nation. The date of the event would be announced shortly.



MEMBERS OF HELO-LPC

#### 4.1.2. ELC Tech Team Contributes to RAIL 2024

Members of the Ejagham Language Codification Technical Team submitted proposals for the 5th workshop on Resources for African Indigenous Languages (RAIL) slated for 25 May 2024 in Turin, Italy.

As captured on their official website, "RAIL workshop is an interdisciplinary platform for researchers working on resources (data collections, tools, etc.) specifically targeted towards African indigenous languages. In particular, it aims to create the conditions for the emergence of a scientific community of practice that focuses on data, as well as computational linguistic tools specifically designed for or applied to indigenous languages found in Africa".

ELC Technical Team made three proposal submissions to the workshop:

1. *The Fattening Room: Anti Divorce Mechanism Among the Ejagham People and Its Value in a Technology Driven World*
2. *Digital Technologies: Indispensable Corpora in Segments and Suprasegment Differentiation in Ejagham Language*
3. *Digital Tracking of Tones: A Case of Ejagham in Cross River, Nigeria.*

The Team is further considering the idea of organising a colloquium to engage these crucial topics and possibly launch a series that will house research on Ejagham language.

#### 4.2. Bakor Mgbe

Ejagham introduced Mgbe to the Efiks, Igbos and Mgbe is known to be practiced outside Cameroon and Nigeria. So how did Bakor, an Ejagham cluster miss out in Mgbe?

On invitation, the EjT VP Ejagham Bakor visited the EjT VP Ejagham Cameroon at Eyumojock where he witnessed activities of Ejagham most revered, most popular and most global Ejagham heritage practices and cultural expressions, the **Mgbe Institution**.



VP EJAGHAM BAKOR IS UGBAN IBU MONKOM AND VP EJAGHAM CAMEROON IS IYAMBA (SESSEKOU) AGBORNDUKU ERET (LEFT) AT EKOK.

The VP Ejagham Bakor was flabbergasted at the experience. He, without hesitation engaged in a discussion with VP Ejagham Cameroon on the introduction of Mgbe to Ejagham Bakor.

The VP Ejagham Cameroon, himself an Iyamba in Mgbe did not hesitate to say to VP Bakor Ejagham,



VP EJAGHAM BAKOR, UGBAN IBU MONKOM AND VP EJAGHAM CAMEROON IYAMBA (SESSEKOU) AGBORNDUKU ERET (BOTH STANDING IN THE MIDDLE) AT EKOK.

Bakor Mgbe. The discuss is at its primordial stages but an idea certainly in the works.

It has been stated time and again that silo relationship across Ejagham nation has



MGBE INITIATE PERFORMING THE RITUAL

disintegrated Ejagham on so many fronts. EjT is providing a vehicle to reverse this trend and instead create and integrated relationship and its attendant benefits across Ejagham nation.

The significance of Integrated Relationship (as opposed to Silo Relationship) is exemplified in the simple extension of invitation of VP Ejagham Cameroon to VP Bakor Ejagham. Whether or not Mgbe is actualized in Bakor is one thing but that such a discuss emerged between two Ejagham clusters representatives, is seismic. VP Ejagham Bakor is Ugban Ibu Monkom and VP Ejagham Cameroon is Iyamba (Sessekou) Agbornduku Eret. Watch this space.





VP EJAGHAM CAMEROON IYAMBA (SESSEKOU) AGBORNDUKU  
ERET PERFUMING INITIATION RITUAL AT Ekok

### 4.3 Members Act to Support Triple-D

EjT activities, which are mostly to collect data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions so that we can Document, Digitalize and Disseminated them. These activities could be carried out by EjT as a group or by individual EjT members as this is one of the core responsibilities of EjT members. Some members recently rose to that responsibility.

#### 4.3.1. Mgbe Initiation @ Ekok

Remember the epic meeting of VP-EC and VP-EB at Ekok that was reported above? The event took place in February 2024. It so happened that Ms.



MS. GERALDINE JENECHINGHI OGAR

Jenechinghi, an active young member of EjT, was at Ekok during this event. She took advantage of her presence and did what EjT members are expected to do in such situations. She captured some of the memorable moments of the event and made them available for the

enjoyment of EjT members on the EjT members only WhatsApp portal.

Ms. Jenechinghi Ogar is a third year student studying Journalism and Mass Communication in the University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. She is also a young entrepreneur, the CEO of MELANIN PHOTOZ.

#### 4.3.2. Mgbe Initiation @ Ndebaya

A 3-day Ejagham heritage event took place in



MGBE INITIATES AT Ekok

Ndebaya village, Njemaya cluster, Eyumojock Sub-division in Cameroon from 14th to 16th March



NTA ETTA RAYMOND ATABE

2024. Nta Raymond Atabe made sure that all members on the EjT WhatsApp members only platform enjoyed the event by diligently posting footage and short clips of the event on the platform. This is what it means to be a member of

EjT.

In what Nta Atabe referred to as "*the rebirth of culture at Ndebaya village*", Mgbe initiation took prominence in the 3-day event. Different stages of initiation took place and our own EjT VP Ejagham Cameroon was there to grace the occasion. Iyamba



MGBE INITIATES AND CHIEFTAINS AT NDEBAYA

(Sessekou) Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret performed some of the Mgbe initiation rituals. Other Ejagham Tradition custodians who were there include the President of Eyumojock Traditional Rulers Association and Clan Head of Ekok HRH Ntufam Cyprian Ojang Eno as well as Ntufam Ayamba Ita of Eyumojock.



MGBE CHIEFTAINS AT NDEBAYA

### 4.3.3. Oban Akachak Festival - Historical Images

In the same spirit of membership responsibilities and similar to Nta Atabe, Barr. Leo Ekanem also performed one of his EjT membership responsibilities. Nta Atebe provided images and video clips of an ongoing Ejagham cultural heritage event over a period of three days to the enjoyment of members globally. On the other hand, Barr. Leo who was the founding President of Oban Akachak Festival, made a deep dive into his archive and provided some invaluable images of Oban Akachak to EjT. This is what it means to be a member of EjT.



BARR. LEO EKANEM

These images, which otherwise would be in the safe storage of Barr. Leo's archive, were given Triple-D treatment and are already available on EjT website for Ejagham people and the global audience to enjoy. Also, they are now more knowledgeable about this aspect of Ejagham heritage. You may view these and other interesting images of Ejagham dances and masquerades at our website. Look for *Akun na Mbin Ejagham* on our website or follow the link: <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/akun-na-mbin-ejagham/>

The scope of activities to Document, Digitalise and Disseminate Ejagham Traditional Practices is grand. You can surely find an aspect of it that you can support in our efforts at defining Ejagham relevance in the community of cultures. Nsob Jenechinghi, Nta Atabe and Barr. Leo found and executed theirs.

### 4.4. Ejagham Njemaya Cultural Festival.



In the last quarterly report, the message from the President read "*Ejagham Beyond Borders*". The message was meant to, amongst others, encourage Ejagham people to make deliberate efforts the blur the political and hence physiological boundaries that has and continue to shape cluster-centric as opposed to the much desired Ejagham-centric relationships across Ejagham nation. We can actually do this in little bites which, when compounded, would have significant impact in our relationship and progress as a people.



One of such little bites occurred when the VP Ejagham Cameroon Iyamba (Sessekou) Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret informed the EjT Leadership Team of Ejagham Njemaya Cultural Festival planned for end of 2024. The information also doubled as an invitation to all EjT members and indeed to all Ejagham nation. I would leave it to you to imagine how it would feel when Ejagham Njemaya people see that their kindred from other Ejagham clusters graced their event with their attendance. Watch this space for further update as we receive them.

#### 4.5. The EJT Website

In pursuit of our Triple-D strategy, the EJT website is our main means of disseminating Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions to the global audience. EJT website is an Ejagham asset that you should be proud enough to point to relatives and friends.

The EJT website is like a house, which is good to have. However, it is the content of a house that makes it a home, a home worth living and visiting. *Ekup na nkad* to all those who have supported EJT in one way or another to provide contents on EJT website. Clearly, there is a lot of work to be done to turn this house into a comfortable home and we are counting on you in the coming days, weeks, months and years ahead for support.

Visit our website at <http://www.ejaghamtradition.org>

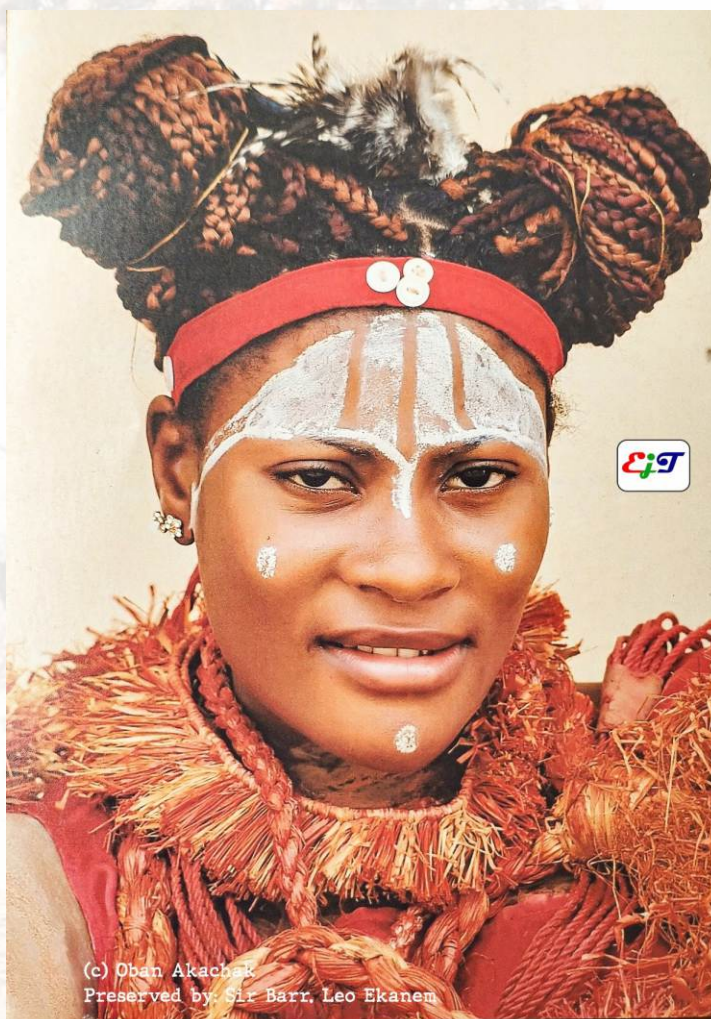
#### 5.0. CHALLENGES - Lack of Funding

We are all aware that currently there is no membership dues in EJT. Some members are calling for membership dues in the believe that this will create a sense of belonging among members and accountability by the leadership. This is indeed a suggestion that is under consideration. In the meantime, the organisation is funded by individual donations. Unfortunately, the donations are not generous enough to enable projects progress at desired pace. We are using this opportunity, once again, to appeal to all members to donate and support the organisation efforts. Members and well-meaning Ejagham sons and daughters can donate directly to the organisation account below. Kindly donate to:

**Account name:** EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

**Account no.:** 203 588 3685

**Bank name:** FIRST BANK NIGERIA.



MONENKIM, OUR CULTURE, OUR HERITAGE –VIEW MORE AT –[AKUM NA MBIN EJAGHAM EJAGHAM TRADITION](#)

6.0. Q1 2024 IN PIX

6.1. Proposed Harmonised Ejagham Language Orthography (HELO)

**PHONEMIC CONSONANTS IN EJAGHGAM**  
**PLACES OF ARTICULATION**

	Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar	Palatal Alveolar	Labio-velar	Palatal	Velar
<b>Oral Stops</b>	p b		t d		kp gb		k g
<b>Nasal Stops</b>	m		n		ɲ		ŋ
<b>Fricatives</b>		f v	s z	ʃ			ɾ
<b>Affricatives</b>				tʃ dʒ			
<b>Trill</b>			r				
<b>Lateral Affricates</b>							
<b>Lateral</b>			l				
<b>Approximants</b>					w	j	

**SYLLABLE AND TONE STRUCTURES OF EJAGHAM**

**SYLLABLE STRUCTURES**

1. V	è	'to/we'
2. CV	Ká	'at'
3. VCV	aku	'ancestors'
4. CGV	pjed	'lock'
5. N	[m],[n],[ŋ]	

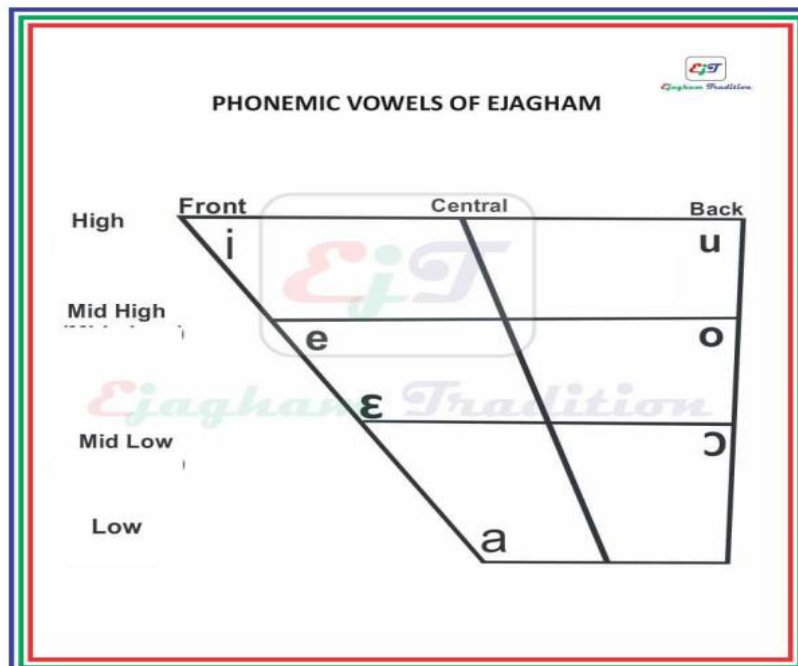
**TONE STRUCTURES**

**LEVEL TONES**

1. >	(H)	High
2. <	(L)	Low

**CONTOUR TONES**

1. < >	(H-L)	Rising- Falling
2. > <	(LH)	Falling -Rising



## 6.2.Mgbe Initiation at Ekok





### 6.3.Mgbe Initiation at Ndebaya



