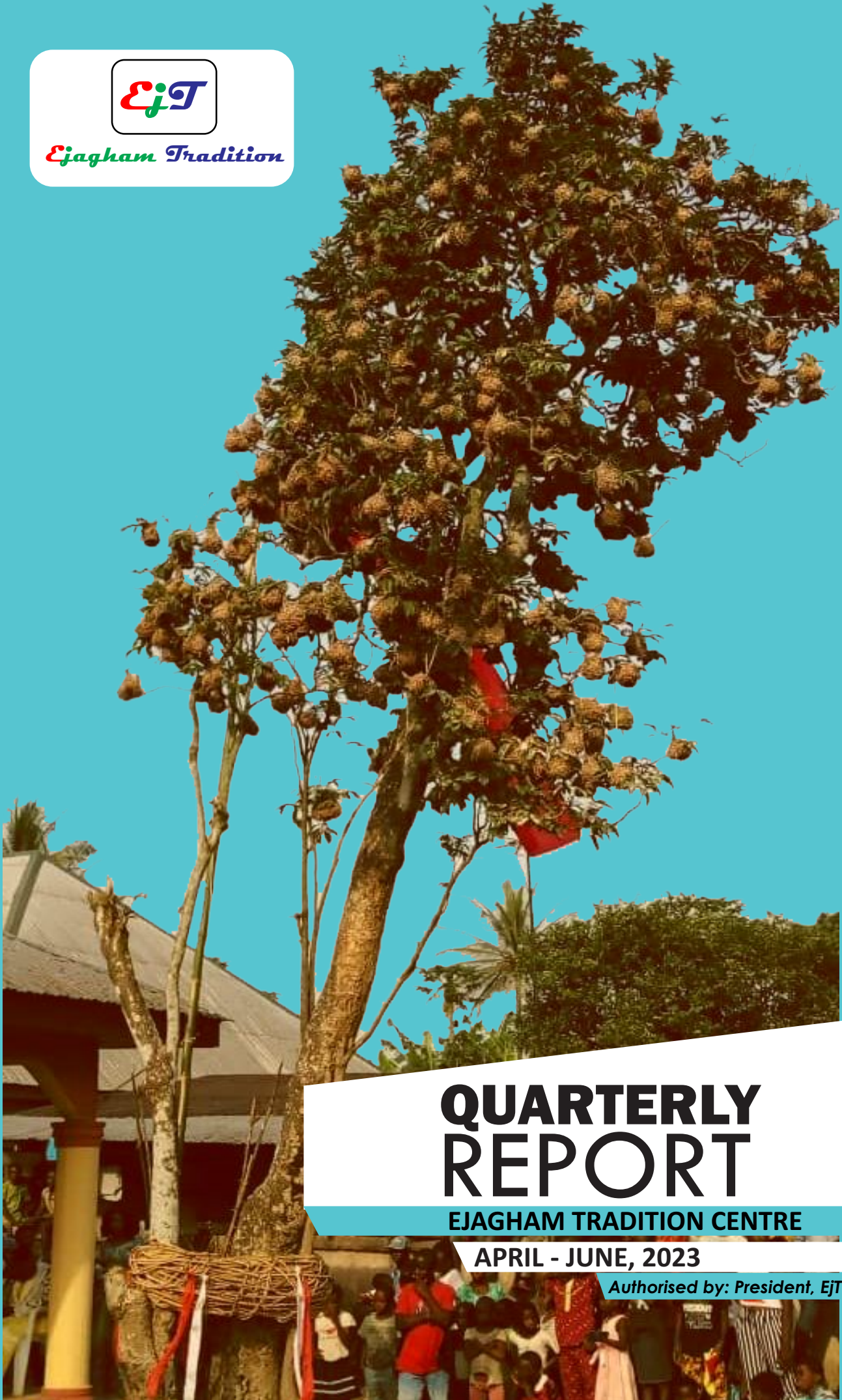




Ejagham Tradition



QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

APRIL - JUNE, 2023

Authorised by: President, EjT

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ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION

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.”

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)

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).*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

EjT: An Ejagham Information Network (EIN)

There are many perspectives by which information could be defined. The one that grabs my attention is the one provided by the American Heritage Dictionary of English. It defines information as: "knowledge or facts learned, especially about a certain subject or event."

As you know, EjT is established to Document, Digitalise and Disseminate the knowledge of 'certain subjects or events' about Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) and, in so doing, become a trusted one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to, and concerning Ejagham heritage.

To do what EjT is established for, we have our membership, from which volunteer human resources are drawn, and we have developed methods to gather, process, and disseminate Ejagham heritage-related data.

www.ejaghamtradition.org



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

Also, our resources for obtaining Ejagham heritage information are mainly EjT members, but of course, non-members are welcome. The users of this information are Ejagham people, friends, and the global audience. The EjT website is the main asset for the delivery of Ejagham heritage information to our global audience. The website also serves as a communication portal for our audience. Other assets such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc. are also deployed for this purpose.

Given the above, EjT is, to all intents and purposes, an **Ejagham Information Network (EIN)**.

Hitherto, one had to go mining to obtain basic information about Ejagham heritage. In the 21st century, this is not acceptable. We are therefore obliged to change this narrative and make sure future Ejagham generations can source information and data about, relating to, and concerning Ejagham heritage with the ease that the 21st century provides.

The scope of gathering, processing, and disseminating Ejagham heritage-related data in this Ejagham Information Network includes but is not limited to the knowledge of Ejagham:

- **Oral Tradition & Literature;**
- **Performance Arts;**
- **Fashion, Beauty, Arts & Crafts;**
- **Sights & Sounds;**
- **Social-economic Practices & festive Events; and**
- **Practices of Nature & the Universe**

As with other synonyms of EjT, "*Ejagham Information Network (EIN)*" is another one intended to represent EjT as a global Information Network portal to facilitate the promotion of Ejagham heritage. It is once again a clarion call to all Ejagham sons and daughters and friends of Ejagham to find comfort in EjT whether because it

is an;

- ***Ejagham Wide Web (EWW),***
- ***Ejagham Cultural Institution (ECI),***
- ***Ejagham Global Ocham (EGO),***
- ***Ejagham Body Of Knowledge (E-BOK), or***
- ***Ejagham Information Network (EIN).***

The future of Ejagham heritage will depend on what Ejagham people, individually and collectively, make of it. It will be a beacon of hope for future Ejagham generations and humanity if you constructively engage, or the unthinkable if you remain inert.

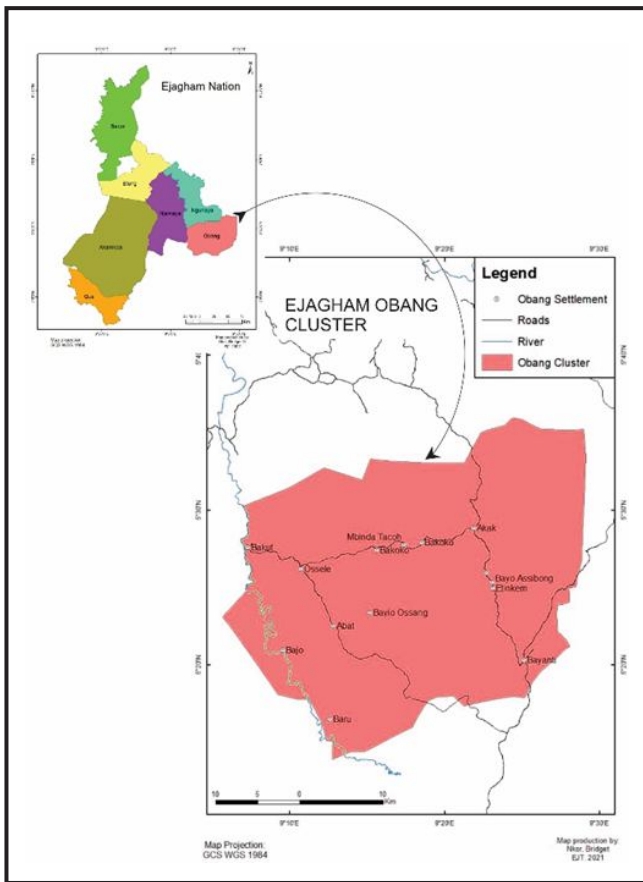
The strength of any network is as good as its weakest link. Don't be the weakest link; support EJt to transmit a healthy Ejagham heritage to future generations.

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

Enom Le M.
Ekup na nkad.
Engr. Chris Anom



EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



Obang

Obang is one of the three Ejagham clusters in Cameroon that make up part of the Ejagham nation in the world. The other two are Ngunaya and Njemaya.

Out of the 66 officially documented villages in this part of the Ejagham nation, 15 belong to the Obang Cluster.

The villages are Bayenti, Bayip Assibong, Etinkem, Akak, Bakoko, Mbinda Taboh and Okoroba. As well as Bayip Ossing, Osselle, Mgbegati, Abat, Bajo, Basu, Bakut, and Ekogate.

Alongside the other two, the Ejagham in Cameroon are politically lumped together in what is today the Eyumojock Subdivision, of Manyu Division in the South West Region of the country.

Colonial trading routes from the interior of Cameroon and Nigeria all bypassed Obang villages, living the entire territory without any modern motorable road up until today.

But the government has tried to make seasonal roads that are used mainly during the dry season, but mostly by motorbikes when heavy rains are around.

And being in the heart of the tropical rain forest, the rains are predominantly heavy and last for as many as eight months of the year.

So, Obang can only be penetrated on seasonal earth roads, with one running from the Kumba-Mamfe highway at Nguti and Manyemen villages. From Ossing and Ayayukndeb villages in Ejagham Ngunaya there are earth roads leading to Obang villages.

From Ejagham Njemaya, one can penetrate right to Obang from Ndebaya village, on the Mamfe-Ekok road, through Inokun to Babong village, before reaching Bakoko, an Obang village.

Apart from these, there are no other means of getting to any Obang village from the Cameroon side of the border, apart from the many traditional footpaths. Like from Nkame in Nigeria, through Ekoneman Awa, to Araru, Okurikang, and Babong to Bakoko.

Economic activities

Obang communities, like other forest zones in other parts of Cameroon, are gradually doing away with hunting and gathering to settle for cash crop agriculture. They cultivate cocoa as a major cash crop, though food crop farming is gradually becoming important as the demand from nearby population centres like Kumba increases.

Like many other hinterland communities in the country, Obang suffers from a serious rural exodus, as many young people abandon

agriculture and move into towns to take up more economically rewarding activities.

Consequently, there is a noticeable concentration of Obang people in Fako Division, which is home to vast plantations of the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC).

Apart from working for the CDC, some buy land and engage in farming around Fako villages, which have easy access to major national market centres like Douala, the country's economic capital.

In this town and Yaounde, many Obang indigenes are engaged in well-paid white-collar jobs, both in the private and public sectors of the national economy.

Obang's Ecotourism potentials

Obang is home to the Ejagham forest reserve which forms part of the Korup National Park in Cameroon. This year, Korup National Park was declared a UNESCO world heritage site, meaning that it is now more protected and is being



©EjT 2023 Hippopotmi in Akpeayafeh River that runs through Obang into the creeks of Bakassi Peninsular

preserved for future generations.

Actually, Korup National Park is just the eastern portion of the Cross River Gorilla Sanctuary, which covers Oban, Ikpai, and parts of Ojuk Clans, in Akamkpa Local Government Area of the Cross River State of Nigeria.

The ecotourism potential of Obang is enormous if they are developed. But presently, the lack of all-season roads constitutes a major impediment. Also, there is a lack of awareness among the natives of the benefits of this type of income-earning activity, so they do not promote it nor do they mount pressure on the government to open up the area for ecotourism business.

Those who have not moved out of the area still earn their livelihood from nature; with the varied



©EjT 2023 Tourist enjoying the splendor of Korup National Park Obang

species of animals, fish, tubers, leaves, fruits, nuts, etc., that they collect or gather from the forests, constituting their sources of food and income. Tropical wildlife is threatened to the point where, presently, many animal species outside of the protected area are extinct, not only in this part of



©EjT 2023 Chimps & Gorillas are common in Obang Protected Forest

Cameroon but across many other communities in the country.

So, the designation of this area as a world heritage site could open a new chapter of life for the Obang people, as Cameroon expects the world to design projects for the natives and provide jobs for them in order to keep farmers and hunters away from the protected heritage site.

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui in Yaounde

Q1 2023 ACTIVITIES

EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION (ELC)

[ELC The Roadmap](#)



EjT President Meets with Ejamham Language Codification Technical Team May 16, 2023

On May 16, 2023, EjT President Engr. Chris Anom met with members of the Ejamham Language Codification Technical Team. That was the first time the president had met with the team, despite collaborating virtually on the project since 2021. It was a significant meeting that had three key agenda items: in-person familiarization, an update on the state of the project, and the next milestones.

The meeting started with a general introduction of the participants. That was followed by opening remarks by the president. In his speech, the president showered the technical team with magnanimous encomiums for their excellent job

and sacrifice thus far. He acknowledged that despite the limited resources and prolonged industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in Nigeria in 2022, the technical team has successfully covered monumental milestones in this ongoing project. The chief of them all is that this team has successfully developed a harmonized Ejamham language orthography that is due for vetting and adoption by relevant government agencies in Nigeria and Cameroon for use in learning institutions.

In further appreciation of the team, the president averred that “[w]ithin EjT, so many committees have been formed to try and move the job [of EjT] forward, but there is one committee that is continuously delivering.” He emphasized that despite the publicity given to this project, a lot of

people have yet to fully appreciate the historic service that the team is delivering to the Ejagham people.



©EjT 2023 Cross section of EjT Leadership and Ejagham language codification technical team

Speaking on behalf of the team coordinator, Prof. Bassey Okon, Mr. Mfon Brownson provided a general overview of the project. He noted that the team had reviewed the intelligibility exercise to clear all gray areas, in line with the feedback received from both the EjT President and the project consultant, Prof. Imelda Udoh. Given the professional nature of their services, the technical team follows international standards for harmonized language codification. This approach has already gained local acceptance for the proposed orthography.

On the milestones ahead, the Chairperson of the project, Prof. Stella Ansa, emphasised the need to commence the development of instructional materials for use during teacher training and the general teaching of the harmonised orthography. She acknowledged that despite the success recorded so far, the project still has a long way to realise the desired socioeconomic empowerment of Ejagham people and local communities.

While all members of the team reminisced about the spark and their continued resolve to commit to

this project, the highlight of the remarks was delivered by the alternate chairperson of the project, Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong: "If you people [referring to EjT] talk about language, then I will be interested because that is where culture is... "This is the reason I am always ready to go wherever I am asked to go," he echoed resoundingly.

Members of the technical team are principally made up of expert linguists from the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Calabar, Nigeria. They took turns to appreciate EjT for embarking on this project and described the commitment of the organisation towards the project as a stronger motivation for the team.

Some members of EjT Leadership Team were also present at the meeting.

Ejagham language intelligibility and vitality test for Ejagham Akparabong May 23, 2023

To ensure that the Ejagham language intelligibility and vitality test is comprehensive, the technical team held a special session with speakers from Ejagham Akparabong. The exercise took place on May 23, 2023, at the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Calabar, Nigeria. Participating delegates were diligent in completing the entire exercise, which occupied an entire workday.

Participants from Akparabong included:

1. Mr. Agim Nchor Takon
2. Sir Samuel Ndifon Nkang, (Ksj)
3. Mr Francis Ojong Eka Ojong
4. Mrs Philomina Owan Obaji and
5. Mr Efoke Obi Njar



©EjT 2023 Ejangham language codification technical team with delegates from Ejangham Akparabong

Despite the tasking nature of the exercise, the participants above expressed immense satisfaction with the proposed orthography and commended the technical team and EjT for the wonderful project. Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong, in close coordination with Nta Nta Agim Takon, was critical to the organising of the exercise. The exercise was recorded and will feature in the next episode of the project documentary.

EJT PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF EYUMOJOCK TRADITIONAL RULERS ASSOCIATION, CHIEF MOSES OBENOFUNDE

June 22, 2023, has cemented itself on the list of significant dates in Ejangham history. It was a day in which the founder and president of EjT, Engr. Chris Anom first held an in-person meeting with the president of the Eyumojock Traditional Rulers Association, the indescribable Chief Moses Obenofunde. The meeting took place at the private residence of EjT President in Houston, Texas, USA. Recall that Chief Obenofunde played a marvellous host to the EjT delegation that visited Limbe in Cameroon to conduct the Ejangham Language Codification Intelligibility and Vitality test.



©EjT 2023 Chief Moses Obenofunde and Engr. Chris Anom

To further demonstrate his resolve and support for EjT, Chief Moses Obenofunde visited EjT president as an expression of gratitude for the bright future that EjT is creating for all Ejangham across the globe. Chief Obenofunde spared time to make the visit amidst his busy schedule on a short trip to the US.



©EjT 2023: L-R: Sesseku Tanyi Besong, Chief Moses Obenofunde, & Engr. Chris Anom

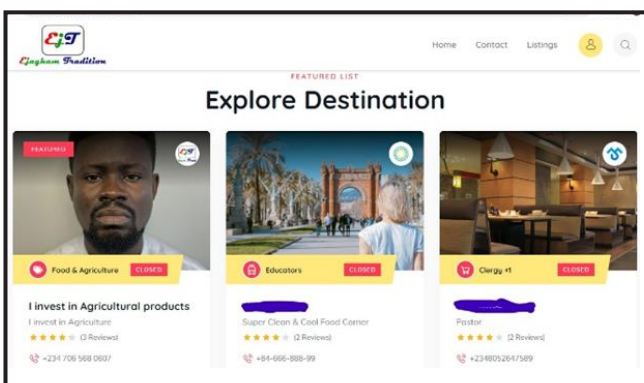
There were critical issues discussed in the meeting; all tailored towards helping rebuild the

Ejagham heritage and the collaboration of both Ejagham people and well-wishers beyond borders. Chief Obenofunde was treated to a signature Ejagham delicacy, egome (plantain), by the wife of EjT President, Mrs. Nse Anom. Also present at the meeting was Sesseku Tanyi Besong who is based in the same city.

THE LAUNCH OF EJAGHAM DIRECTORY ON EJT WEBSITE

Still, in the relentless drive to design a dedicated website that will become the one-stop shop for everything concerning and about Ejagham, EjT has launched a new website feature called Ejagham Directory. This directory has two categories: Professional and Entrepreneurial.

All Ejagham professionals and entrepreneurs now have a digital portal to publicise their credentials, services, and products to the global community. This development is aimed at improving the visibility and network of Ejagham people.



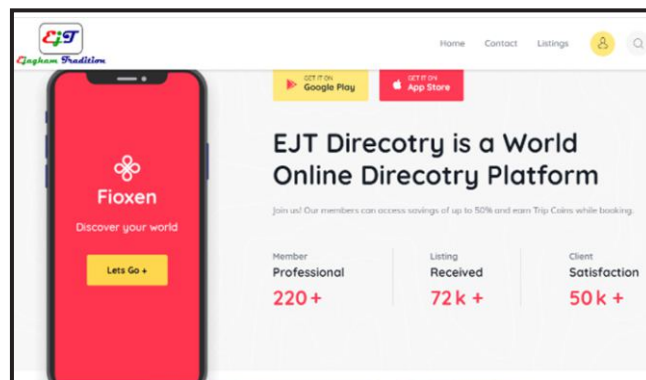
Demo view of EjT Directory

To subscribe to the professional category, click on this link <https://forms.gle/y7ovErG4swgMrhOg7> and enter the form requirements.

Entrepreneurs are to subscribe via this link <https://forms.gle/1QPrikj9Yd1sj4fH7>

As a welcome package, the earliest subscribers will be published and advertised on the website free of

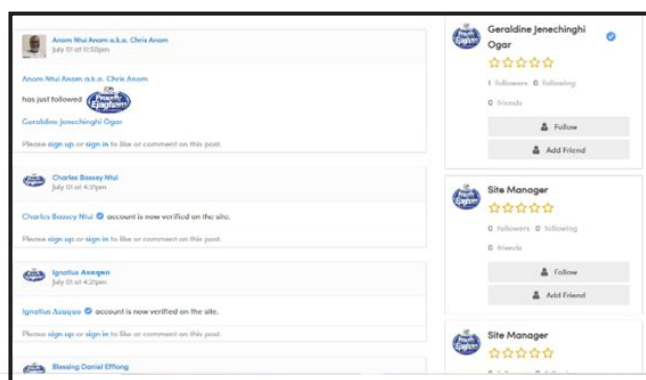
charge. Later subscribers will be required to donate a website maintenance fee to ensure that we continue to have the capacity to maintain and consistently improve the website. Generous donations are also welcomed to help facilitate our drive.



Demo view of EjT Directory

EJT SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE

In the drive to connect all Ejagham people across the globe, EjT launched a social media portal where all Ejagham people can have interpersonal and group interactions. We appreciate those who have signed up on the portal, and we encourage the majority who are yet to do so to simply click https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/login/?redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ejaghamtradition.org%2Faccount-2%2F and sign up on the global network of Ejagham social media.



View of EjT Social media

EjT PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF AKAMKPA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Pursuant to the objective of documenting the EjT Tertiary Education Database Centre (ETEDC) as a tool for strengthening the educational standing of Ejagham people, the President took advantage of his visit to Calabar to meet with the incoming President of the Akamkpa Students Association, Mr. Charles Ntui. The intent was to meet with the outgoing and incoming presidents of the students' association. Unfortunately, the outgoing president was not available at the time.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Charles and Mr. Assene Effiong who is the President of Nsan Students Association. Nta Ben Ntui and Nta Achuinju Iserom were also present. At the meeting, we established the nonavailability of any such tertiary education students' information database; the negative impact of its lack of availability, and the need for it to be established.

Nta Charles Ntui and Nta Assene Effiong expressed commitment to supporting the initiative and making sure the collection of the required information becomes a norm in the student body.

EjT PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE VOLUNTEER FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF EJAGHAM CUISINE.

Pursuant to the objective of documenting Ejagham cuisine, EjT president took advantage of his availability in Calabar to meet with the volunteer team that has been doing some preliminary work on this project. Present at the meeting were Nta Achuinju Iserom and Nta Ben Ntui. Ms Moninyen Edim and Ms Joy Assong, as part of the team, were unavoidably absent.

The president used the opportunity to give an overview of the scope and potential of committing to the development of Ejagham cuisine and the consequences of not doing so. He also used the opportunity to hear the perspective and sense of commitment of Nta Achuinju Iserom to the project. From preliminary engagements, an action plan was developed, and some aspects of work commenced. However, they all left the meeting with a renewed commitment, having had clarity on the scope and potential of documenting Ejagham cuisine.

CHALLENGES - Lack of Funding

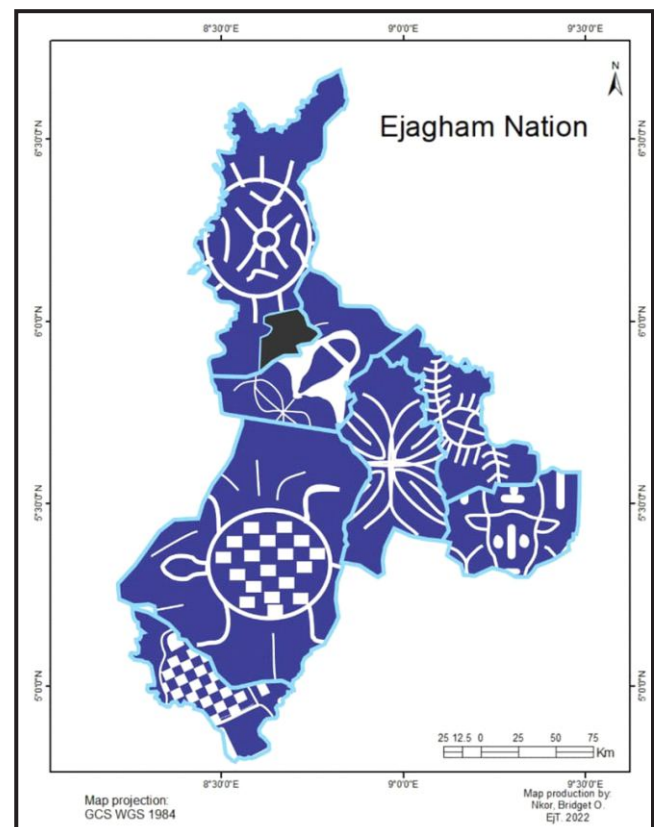
We are all aware that now there are no membership dues in EjT. Some members are calling for membership dues in the belief that this will create a sense of belonging among members and accountability by the leadership. This is indeed a suggestion that is under consideration.

In the meantime, the organisation is funded by individual donations. Unfortunately, the donations are not generous enough to enable projects to progress at the desired pace. We are using this opportunity, once again, to appeal to all members to donate and support the organisation efforts. Members, well-meaning Ejagham sons and daughters, friends of Ejagham, all lovers of heritage, and philanthropists can donate directly to the organisation's bank account below.

Account name: EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

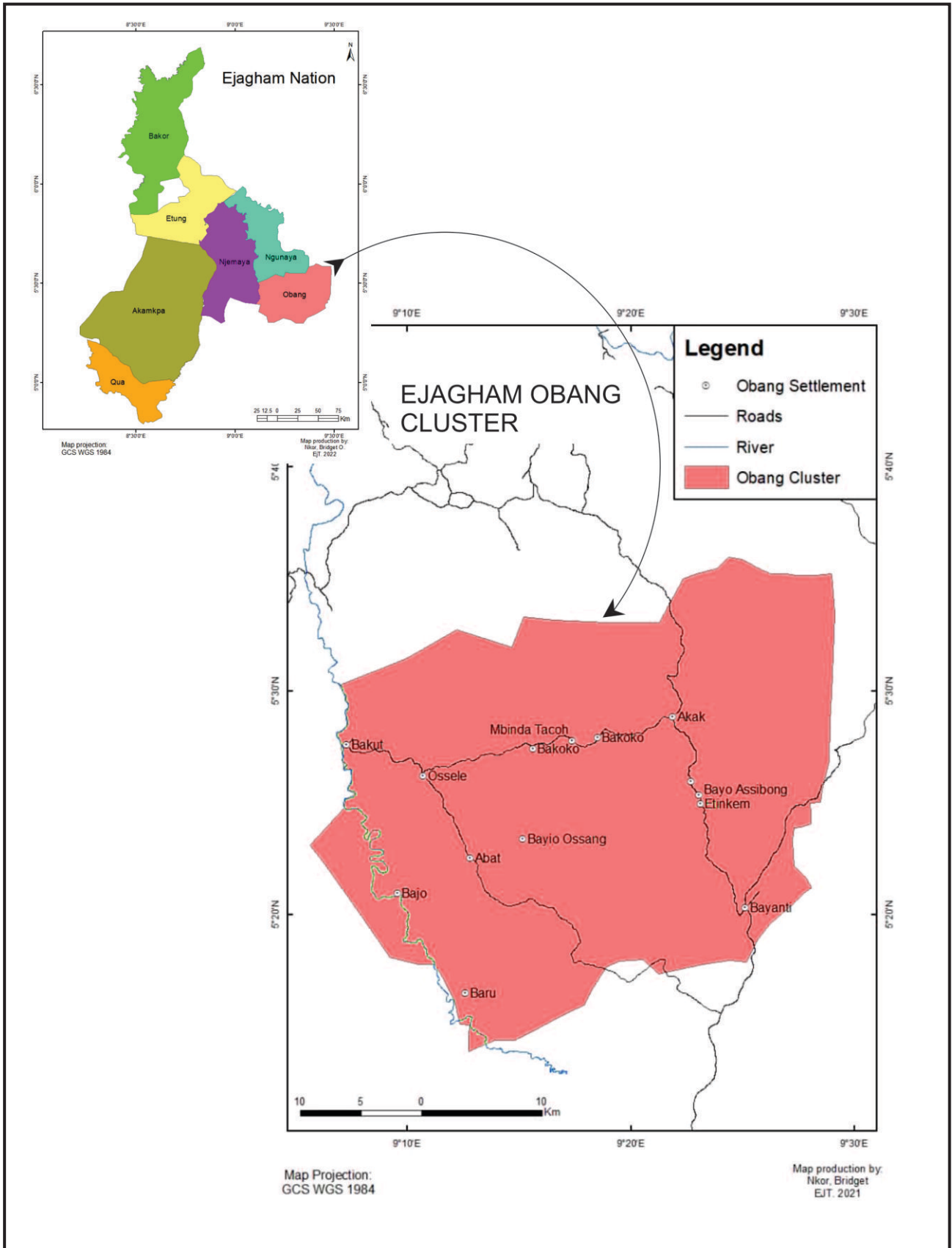
Account no.: 203 588 3685

Bank name: FIRST BANK NIGERIA.



APPENDIX

Ejagham Obang Appendix 1



Appendix 2

@Ejagham Language Codification (ELC)
Technical Team



Appendix 3
PHOTO GALLERY

@Akparabong Intelligibility Test



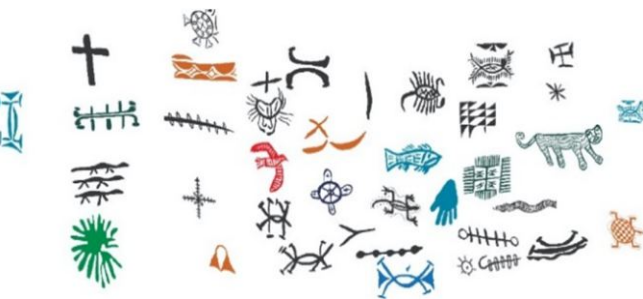
Sir Samuel Ndifon Nkang, (Ksj) and Mr. Agim Nchor Takon,



©EjT 2023 Mr. Agim Nchor Takon and Mr Efobe Obi Njar



©EjT 2023 Mrs. Philomina Owan Obaji



©EjT 2023 Sir Samuel Ndifon Nkang, (Ksj) and
Mr. Agim Nchor Takon,