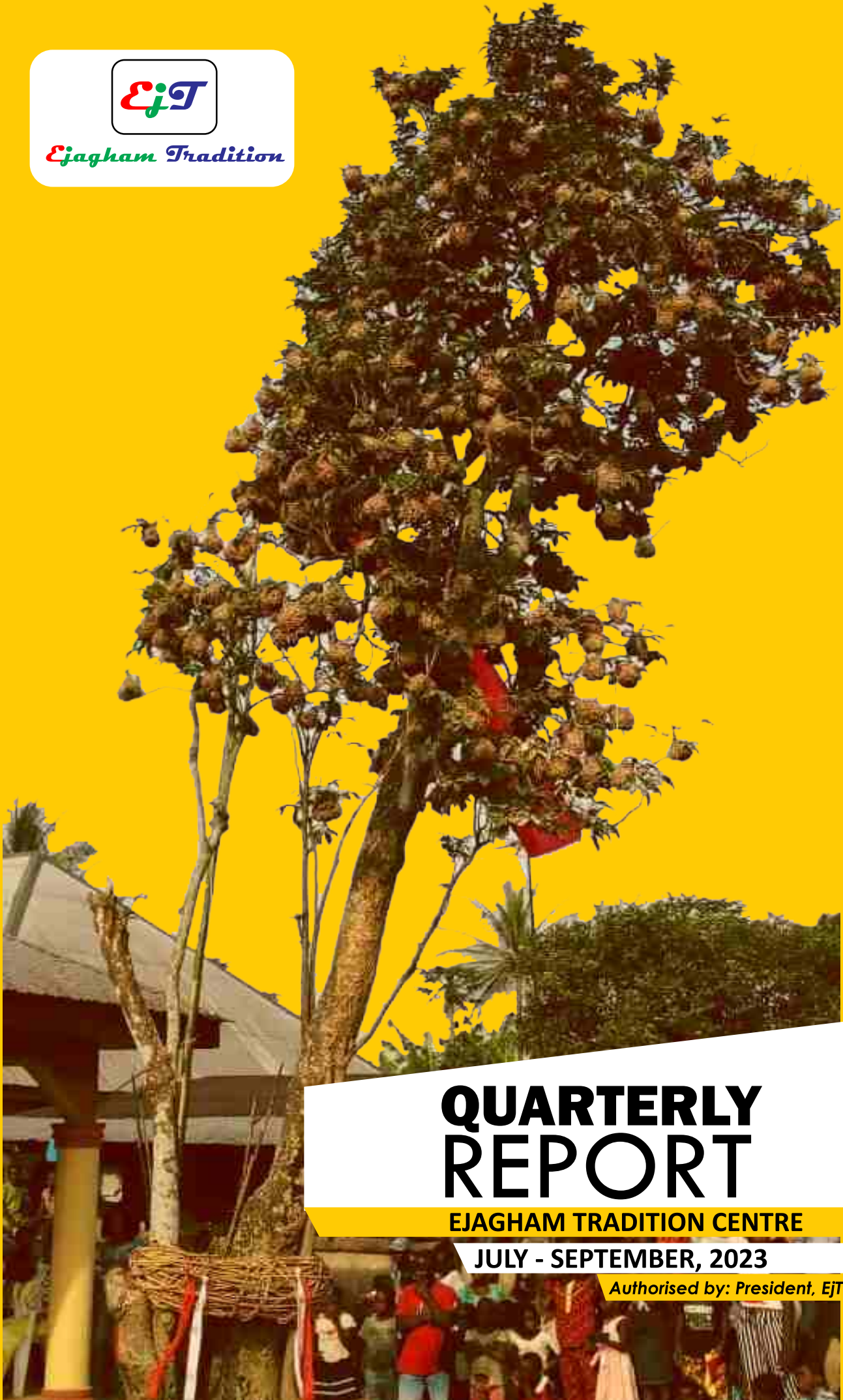




Ejagham Tradition



QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 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 Unity Forum (EUF)

As I understand it, '**Unity**' is the state of being united or joined as a whole. A '**Forum**' is a gathering where people can ask questions, share their experiences, discuss topics of mutual interest, create social connections and a sense of community.

When organisation, fora, platforms etc. are created, one of the default objectives is usually unity although not typically explicitly mentioned. When named as such, it is usually for avoidance of doubt and because in such cases, unity is recognized as a serious challenge. Is unity a serious challenge to Ejagham people? Your guess is as good as mine but here are a couple of realities to consider as you make your guess.

The first Ejagham Talk Show that was organised by EjT may have provided the answer to this question. In that show, one of the speakers Mr. Igbe Aruku mni from Ejagham Bakor stated;

"... what EjT is doing is to give Ejagham that Identity and that is why we have to take it seriously."

It is clear from the above that Mr. Igbe Aruku recognized that identity is a prerequisite for unity because it is easier to unite people of common identity. Therefore, from Mr. Igbe Aruku's lens,



Engr. Chris Anom CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST, FRINA

unity appears to be a challenge to Ejagham people. In the same show, another speaker Ntunkae Barr.

Grace Eyo Ita from Ejagham Akamkpa stated;
"... the man that said united we stand, divided we fall did not make no mistake."

Once again, there was emphasis on the unity of Ejagham people, a recognition that unity is an existential challenge to Ejagham people.

It is said that by their fruits you shall know them. EjT activities attest to its pursuit of Ejagham unity through promoting Ejagham heritage.

In our first public outing EjT assembled all Ejagham clusters (Qua, Akamkpa, Etung, Bakor and Ejagham Cameroon) during the **2019 Cultural Carnival** in Calabar, Cross River State. It was, to all intents and purposes, a deliberate effort to unite Ejagham people.



THE CLUSTERS WERE WELL REPRESENTED AT THE 2019 CALABAR CULTURAL CARNIVAL

In our second outing, EjT in collaboration with Ejagham Qua Festival organising committee, organised the first **Ejagham Talk Show** with panellists drawn from all Ejagham clusters in Nigeria. Representative from Ejagham Cameroon was absent due to the hostilities in Ejagham



PANELLIST AT EJ TALK SHOW, TOP L-R: NTUFAM PROF. SEN. SANDY ONOR, MR. IGBE ARUKU MNI, NTUNKAE BARR. GRACE EYO ITA, REV. FR. DR. FELIX EJA OJONG, MR. D. C. EKUP-NSE AND CHIEF EDET EKPO

Cameroon at the time. The Clergy and Youths were also represented. Once again, a rare effort to unite Ejagham people.

In one of our programs, **Ekubi EjT**, the subject discussed was **“Silo Relationships and its Impacts on the Ejagham Heritage.”**. Panellists were drawn from Bakor, Qua, Akamkpa and Ejagham Cameroon, another deliberate effort to unite Ejagham people.



PANELLIST AT EKUBI EJT, L-R: DR. LAWRENCE MGBANGSON, PROF. ALICE ETA ASIM, MR. D. C. EKUP-NSE (HOST), IYAMBA HON. DR. AGBORNDUKU ERET AND NTUFAM PROF. ROLAND NDOMA-EGBA.

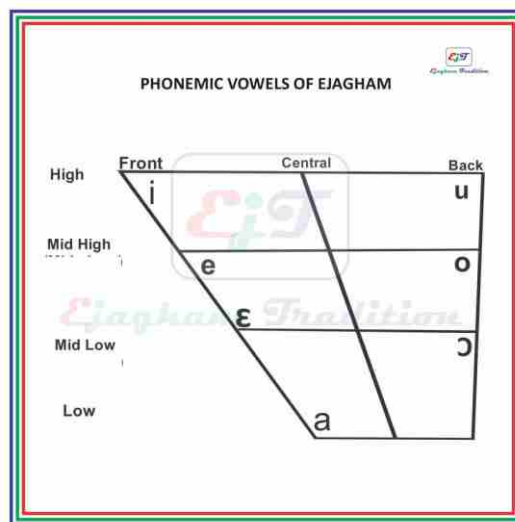
Ejagham Academia League. EjT instigated and indeed supported the first ever Ejagham Academia League conference. The conference attracted Ejagham academia across all Ejagham clusters. That was unity per excellence.



EJAGHAM ACADEMIA LEAGUE 2019, ORGANISED BY DR. RALPH OFFIONG.

EjT created the **EjT Students Forum**. The Forum is intended to pull Ejagham students from all clusters into a single Ejagham students' forum. This is essentially breaking down the silo relationship in Ejagham nation where it really matters while encouraging integrated relationship, a recipe for unity. So far, Etung and Akamkpa and Bakor students have found themselves on the same platform for the first time. Qua and Ejagham Cameroon students are yet to join the merry.

EjT is currently undertaking a project to develop a Harmonized Ejagham Language Orthography (HELO) which when approved would be included in the educational curriculum in Ejagham nation. Nothing is more uniting than HELO.



PRODUCT OF ELC - EJAGHAM PHONEMIC VOWELS

The **EjT Membership** is another true representation of unity of purpose. Membership is drawn from all clusters of Ejagham nation.

It would be obvious from the above that the unity of Ejagham people is, without a doubt, an integral part of EjT's modus operandi. EjT is, to all intents and purposes, an **Ejagham Unity Forum (EUF)**.

As with other EjT synonyms, "Ejagham Unity Forum (EUF)" is yet another clarion call to one and 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)
- Ejagham Identity Organisation (EIO)
- Ejagham Information Network (EIN) or
- Ejagham Unity Forum (EUF)

The future of Ejagham heritage would be 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.

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

Ekup na nkad.

Engr. Chris Anom
President, EjT

Q3 2023 ACTIVITIES

EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION (ELC) - The Road Map



ELC TECHNICAL TEAM TIE UP LOOSE ENDS.

The ELC Technical Team completed the intelligibility test phase of the project when they recently completed the intelligibility test with Akparabong clan. The event took place at the University of Calabar. The Tech Team learned during the test there is need to update the existing voice-over recording. The voice-over recording is one of the Tech Team asserts which is part of the portfolio for presentation to NERDC.

After engaging with the Consultant Prof. Imelda Udoh, the Tech Team is currently tying up any loose ends in readiness for the next step. Hence, the Tech Team has engaged a voice-over professional to update the existing voice-over recordings.

You can access detailed update on ELC activities at;



EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION PROJECT UPDATE WEBPAGE SCREENSHOT

Link to ELC Project Updated:

<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/projects/#1650894943001-ee6ceebb-1579>

EjT SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR.

There is an adage in Ejagham the says;

“Osuganoh otom, otom osugha oboh”, meaning - as you wash the mortar (with your hands of course), the mortar washes your hands too.

Essentially, at the end of the day, both the mortar and your hands would be *clean*, mission accomplished.

Recall that the department of linguistics, university of Calabar is a partner in the Ejagham Language Codification project. Once it came to our notice that the department is conducting a field activity on language and needed field materials for the task, EjT was not going to look the other way. As the saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed, EjT decided to support its friend and partner.

On the 19th of September, 2023, EjT provided 100 copies of the iconic ELC Wordlist to the department to facilitate their language field work. EjT and indeed Ejagham people are happy to be part of an elaborate language research by the university of Calabar.



L-R: MR. BEN NTUI, REV. FR DR. FELIX OJONG AND PROF. BASSEY OKON

Rev. Dr. Fr. Felix Eja Ojong, the Alternate Chairperson of Ejagham Language Codification Committee (ELCC) and Nta Ben Ntui who is the Contracts and Procurement Executive of EjT, delivered the Wordlists. Prof. Bassey Okon, a senior

Professor in the department and the ELC Tech Team Coordinator received he Wordlists on behalf of the Department of Linguistics, University of Calabar.

CHANGE OF BATTON AT EYUMOJOCK TRADITIONAL RULERS ASSOCIATION

A change of traditional leadership recently occurred in one of Ejagham's Tradition Custodian bodies, the Eyumojock Traditional Rulers Association (ETRA). The baton was flawlessly transferred by the former President of ETRA, HRH Chief Hon. Moses Obenofunde to the new President. Chief Obenofunde assumed a new role as the President of South West Chiefs Conference (SWCC) of Cameroon.



HRH CHIEF HON. MOSES OBENOFUNDE

The new president is His Royal Highness (HRH) Iyamba Hon. Ojang Eno Cyprian. He is the Chief of the border village of Ekok in Eyumojock municipality.



HRH IYAMBA HON. OJANG ENO CYPRIAN, PRESIDENT EYUMOJOCK TRADITIONAL RULERS ASSOCIATION

EjT was formally introduced to the new President of ETRA by EjT Vice President Ejagham Cameroon, Iyamba Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret during Ejagham Njemaya Cluster National get together on the 5th of August 2023 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.



EJT VICE PRESIDENT EJAGHAM CAMEROON, IYAMBA HON. DR. AGBORNDUKU ERET AND HRH IYAMBA HON. OJANG ENO CYPRIAN

EJT STUDENTS FORUM PICKS UP STEAM

When Ejagham Etung student's activity was posted on Ejagham Students portal on EjT Website and the link shared on EjT Members WhatsApp group, another student, Ms. Jenechinghi Mbey, asked;

"... please what of Ejagham Students Association, does it still exist?"

A response from another member, Prof. Ekanem Wokoma reads;

"During my secondary school days in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was a strong association that brought together secondary school students of Ejagham nation together from all over the then South-Eastern State together. ...We organized debates, dramas and parties, etc. to develop our minds."

Political delineation has, intentionally or unintentionally, perpetuated silo relation in Ejagham nation, even among students. EjT has taken the first step to **bring students of Ejagham nation together** once again.

We created a forum for Ejagham students, the "**EjT Students Forum**". Although the forum was populated with Akamkpa students initially, but recently Etung and Bakor students are active in the forum. The forum looks forward to receiving

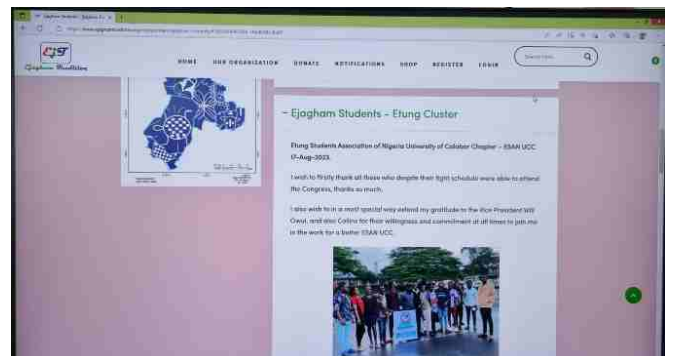


SCREEN SHOT OF EJT STUDENTS FORUM WHATSAPP PLATFORM

Ejagham Qua and Ejagham Cameroon students. This EjT Students Forum is still very much work in progress and we need your support, students and non-students alike. Click the link below for knowledge.

Link to Ejagham Students:

<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/stakeholders/ejagham-students/>



EJAGHAM STUDENTS WEBPAGE SCREENSHOT

CELEBRATING EJAGHAM AUTHORS

Ejagham heritage is not all about singing and dancing there is also the intellectual dimension which gets little or no attention. Part of the intellectual dimension is Ejagham authors.

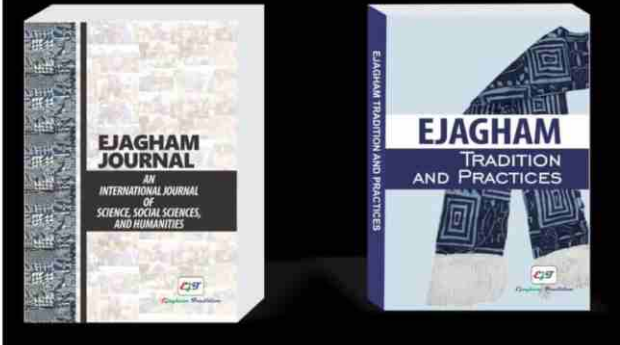
If you carefully study the "About" of Ejagham authors wherever their books are being sold or publicised, you will notice how clearly and beautifully their profiles are laid out. After reading their "About" you will definitely know who they are, where they are from and their achievements. However, what most readers may, almost certainly, not know about them is the fact that they are Ejagham. For whatever reason, that part of their

profile has to be deduced.

Well, EjT is making sure Ejagham people and the global community are aware of the contribution of Ejagham people in helping to shape humanity as authors. As the adage goes, no one really says you are until you say I am. Click the link below and join in celebrating Ejagham authors.

Link to Celebrating Ejagham Authors:

<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/stakeholders/ejagham-academia-literature/>



EJAGHAM ACADEMIA & LITERATURE

As a one-stop-shop for Ejagham heritage, EjT typifies a global Ocham for all Ejagham peoples and communities.

LEARN MORE

LANDING PAGE Celebrating Ejagham Authors ON EJT WEBSITE.

If you are or know any Ejagham person who has authored/co-authored a book on any subject, please contact EjT using the contact details on EjT website www.ejaghamtradition.org.

EJAGHAM TRADITION CUSTODIANS

As the name suggest, Ejagham Tradition Custodians are the gate keepers of Ejagham heritage. Do we really know them? In the 21st century, this should not be a challenge. However,

silo relationship in Ejagham nation has meant that what happens and who is at the helm in the other cluster was not a concern. Well, as a people, it should, so we need to know who runs the show in any Ejagham cluster. The Ejagham Tradition Custodians portal in EjT website is striving to make this a reality. Click the link below for knowledge.



EJAGHAM TRADITION CUSTODIANS

Ejagham heritage is proudly owned by all Ejagham people. It is made manifest through the institutions that form its foundation. The culture, customs and

LEARN MORE

LANDING PAGE OF EJAGHAM TRADITION CUSTODIANS ON EJT WEBSITE.

Link to Ejagham Tradition Custodians:

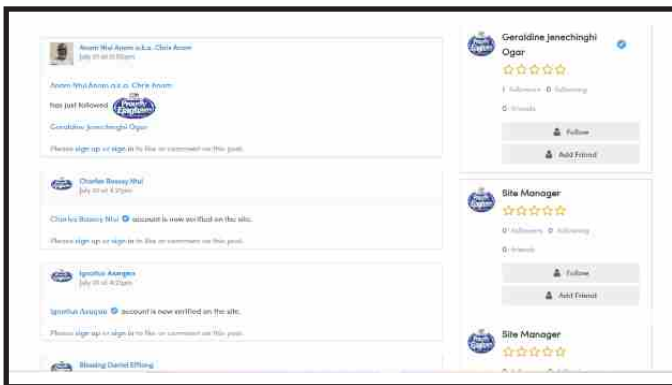
<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/stakeholders/tradition-custodians/#1667665120156-7f6391e9-ebdc>

EJT SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE

In the drive to connect all Ejagham people across the globe, EjT launched a social media portal where all EjT members 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 this link and sign up on the global network of Ejagham social media.

Link to EjT Social Media portal:

https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/login/?redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ejaghamtradition.org%2Faccount-%2F



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 organisation account below.

Kindly donate to:

Account name: EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

Account no.: 203 588 3685

Bank name: FIRST BANK NIGERIA.

Many thanks to those who have made financial donations in support of the ELC project.

