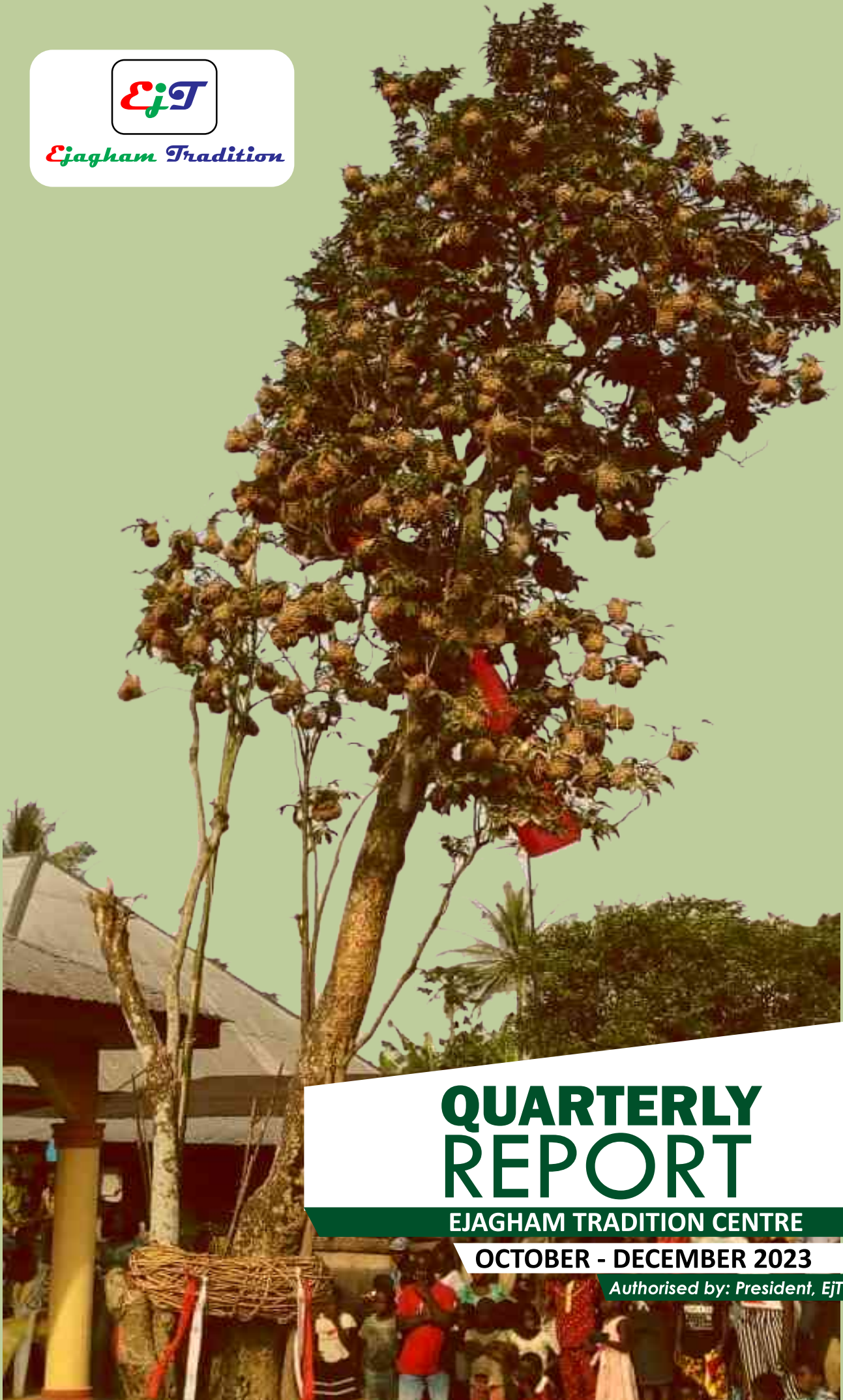




*Ejagham Tradition*



# QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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: Ejagham Beyond Borders (EBB)

What message do I end the year 2023 with? That was the question I asked myself, and almost effortlessly, I got my answer - *Ejagham Beyond Borders*.

#### What is Ejagham?

Ejagham refers to a unique people with a shared cultural heritage occupying an expanse of territory in today's South-South Nigeria and South-West Cameroon. It is one of the many surviving pieces of evidence of the Scramble for Africa and the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, which partitioned Africa without regard for indigenous boundaries. In the Ejagham experience, the plebiscite of 1961 cemented the separation of the Ejagham nation into the French-colonised Cameroon and British-colonised Nigeria.

Supplementing the effect of the scramble and the plebiscite, and indeed for administrative convenience, indigenous communities have been further divided into states, local governments, clans, and political wards, etc. in both Nigeria and Cameroon.

In Ejagham, this situation resulted in the discontinuities of Ejagham and the perpetuation of the silo *relationship* in the Ejagham nation with its

attendant lack of unity, progress and development in Ejagham Nation.

The forgoing calls on us to reflect on what a distinguished Ejagham son, Prof. Francis Bisong, stated in his presentation at the first - and so far the only - EjT-instigated 2019 Ejagham Academia League conference in Calabar, Cross River State. The event, which took place in Pyramid Hotel, Calabar, was a maiden assembly of Ejagham Academia in Nigeria. An extract from Prof. Francis Bissong's presentation reads:

*"These discontinuities in political arrangements and configurations have resulted in the seeming loss of steam and cohesiveness in defining a typical Ejagham identity and forging a common future for relevance in contemporary life".*

EjT is focused on changing the narrative highlighted by Prof. Bisong and encouraging a more *integrated relationship* of *Ejagham Beyond Borders*. This will bring about the needed cohesiveness, common identity, and unity and crank the engines for forging a common future for the progress, development and relevance of Ejagham nation.

You may ask what exactly EjT is doing to change the narrative and what an EBB would look like.

To the first part of the question, EjT is aware that several complementary actions could be taken to bring about EBB. We also recognise that these actions would succeed only if they rest on a solid foundation. Depending on the lens through which it is viewed, the description of what constitutes a solid foundation may differ.

At EjT, we have made the conscious decision that one of the things that constitutes a solid foundation in the drive for EBB is the development and use of a standard Ejagham language across the Ejagham nation. Hence, EjT is championing the development of a **Harmonized Ejagham Language Orthography (HELO)**. HELO will lead to institutionalising the teaching of Ejagham language in learning institutions across Ejagham nation. The knock-on effect of this singular action



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



would be the much needed unity, progress and development in Ejagham Nation.

To the second part of the question, I wished I knew exhaustively what an EBB would look like, but I do not. What I know is that other multi-cluster heritage, such as the Yorubas, Hausas and Igbos had long developed harmonised orthographies for their languages and that furthered the integration of their nations. So, if one evaluates the overall situation of these nations, are they united, progressive and making developmental strides in various fields of human endeavours? So, to the question 'what would an EBB look like'? your guess is as good as mine.



Prof. Francis Bisong granting an interview to EJT Media

Ekup na nkad.

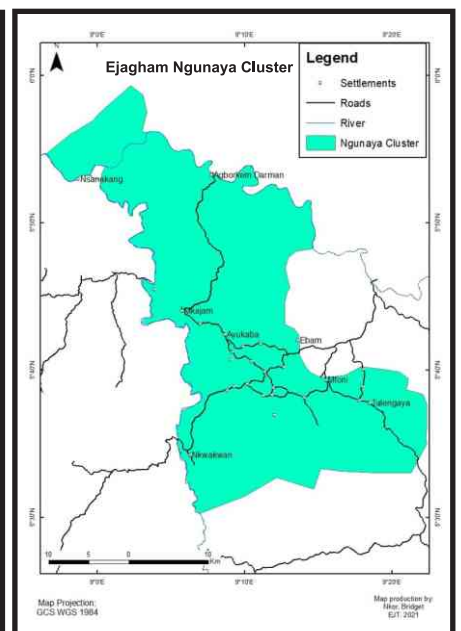
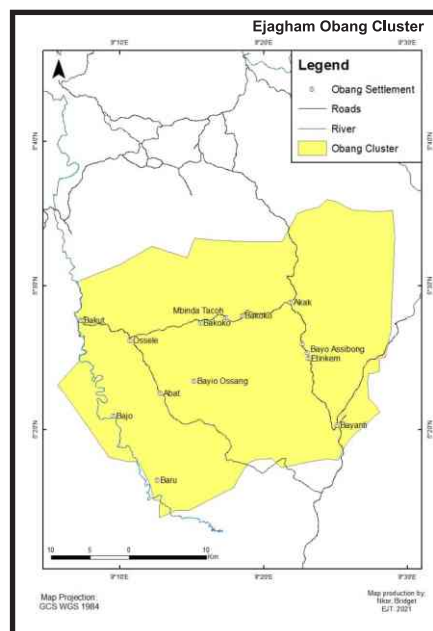
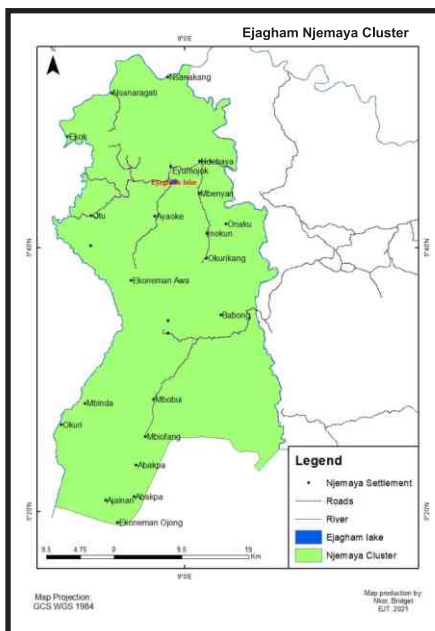
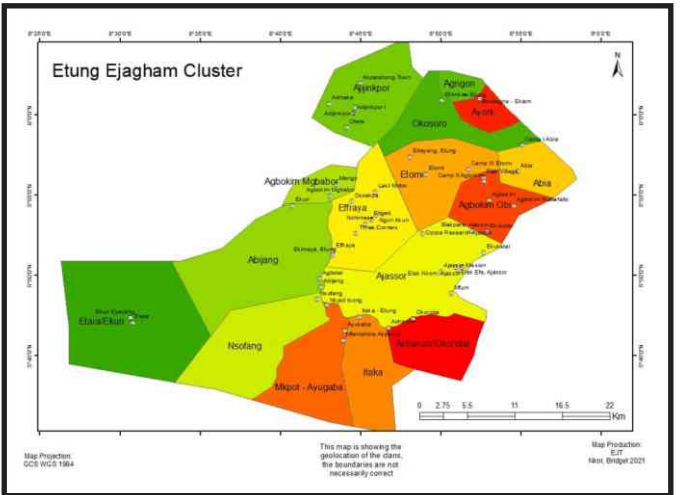
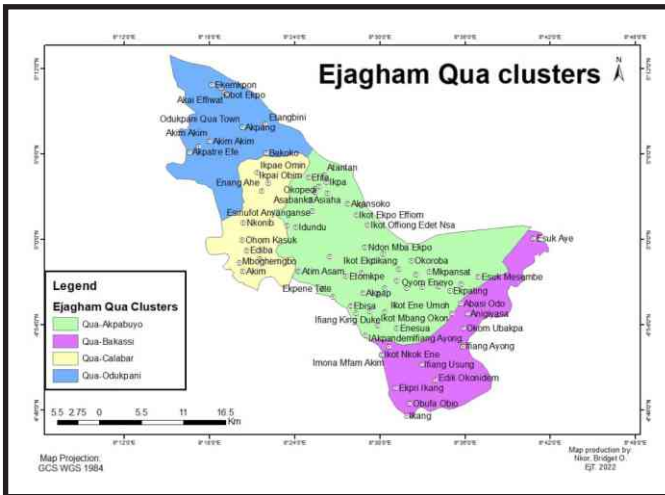
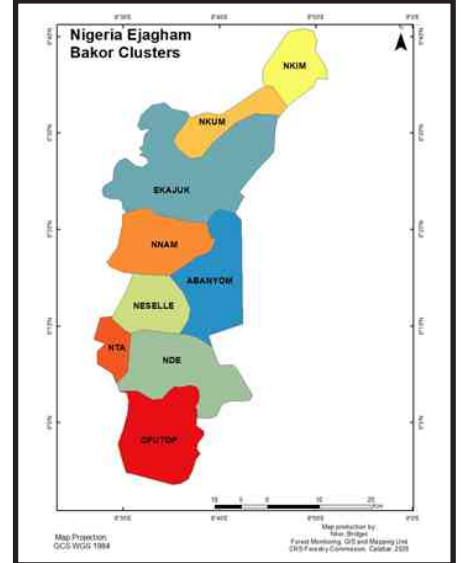
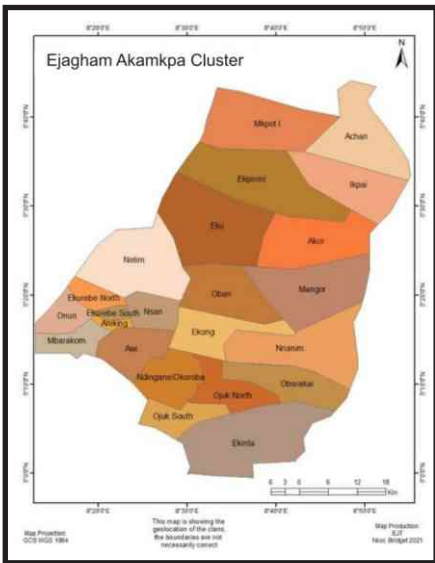
*Enom Le M.*

**Engr. Chris Anom**  
**President, EJT**





# EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



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

## Q4 2023 ACTIVITIES

### Ekup na nkad – Thank you - for your Support in 2023

In the context of what EjT has achieved, 2023 has been a mixed bag experience. Nevertheless, EjT's principle in the measure of achievement remains the same.

***“What is the potential of our members, and indeed Ejagham people, that could be applied to achieve our Mission, Vision and Objectives? We see a lot. Given that potential, what have we achieved so far? Potential versus Achievements is the real measure. Given our potential, our achievements to date leaves much to be desired”.***

Above statement was true in 2020 and remains true today. However, although we have many squares ahead of us in the pursuit of our Mission, Vision and Objectives, we are surely no longer in square one. We have made some progress, courtesy of our volunteers, members, and the EjT Leadership Team. Ekup na nkad – Thank you.

Below are some of the positive achievements for 2023.

#### Ejagham Language Codification (ELC)

Our flagship project, Ejagham Language Codification (ELC), completed the Intelligibility Test phase in 2023. The intelligibility test culminated in the receipt verbal acceptance from all Ejagham Traditional Councils and Associations as well as formal letters of acceptance from all Ejagham clusters – as we still await Etung. The Technical Team of ELCC is currently finalising arrangements for the presentation of the proposed HELO to NERDC in Nigeria and similar regulatory authorities in Cameroon.

Ekup na nkad to the Technical Team and ELCC for leading us this far.

### Learning/Teaching Moments on EjT Members Platform

Is this a project? Well, no, it is not a project. However, the EjT Members' only WhatsApp platform stands out as a Learning/Teaching portal and is therefore worth recognising. Even more worthy of recognition are those who have spared no effort in taking advantage of the platform to share their knowledge of Ejagham heritage.

It is important to note that as much as we pride ourselves as a people with a rich heritage, if we do not share the knowledge of our heritage, the alternative is that we would transition with such knowledge into the great oblivion. This is a recipe for extinction of our heritage. For those who are sharing such knowledge, EjT is eternally grateful. Ekup na nkad to those who have supported EjT's course in this respect.

#### Ejagham Students

Ejagham Students Association is not new. In fact, our own Prof. Ekanem Wokoma stated:

"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. ... Most of the students were from Oban and Ikom".

Today, Ejagham Clans and Clusters Associations exist, instead of Ejagham Students Associations. This is a clear demonstration of Silo Relationship across Ejagham nation orchestrated by political delineation. EjT created an EjT Students Forum, a platform intended to bring back the spirit of the erstwhile Ejagham Students Association Prof. Ekanem Wokoma reminisced. EjT is glad to mention that through this platform, Ejagham students are discovering themselves as a people of Ejagham identity. For the first time since the 1970s, students from Bakor, Akamkpa and Etung clusters are members of one Ejagham Students

Association, the EjT Students Forum.

There is still work to be done to have a full house (all Ejagham clusters) on board. In the meantime, Ekup na nkad to the clans and cluster student leaders who have helped to make the EjT Students Forum a reality. These include Nta Charles Ntui of the Akamkpa Students Association, Mr. Abe Clement of the Ekajuk Students Association, Mr. Ntui Sam and Mr. Patrick Alibi of the Etung Students Association, Mr. Nathaniel Molang of the Ogoja Students Association, Mr. Mgbe Mathaias Igu of Nkum Students Association, to mention a few.

### 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. The EjT website is like a house, which is good to have. However, it is the content of a house that turns it into 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 that can be found 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 years ahead.

### Financial Contributors

For a non-profit organisation such as EjT to be functional, it would obviously require financial, material and moral support. EjT have received this support, in differing proportions, from the Ejagham people. EjT would like to particularly acknowledge those who have supported us financially following our numerous appeals. Ekup na nkad to all our donors.

### 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.

Historians opine that whatever happened in the past has a message for the future. Does reviewing EjT's performance in 2023, recent past, have any message for you on how we (Ejagham people) should show up in 2024, immediate future?

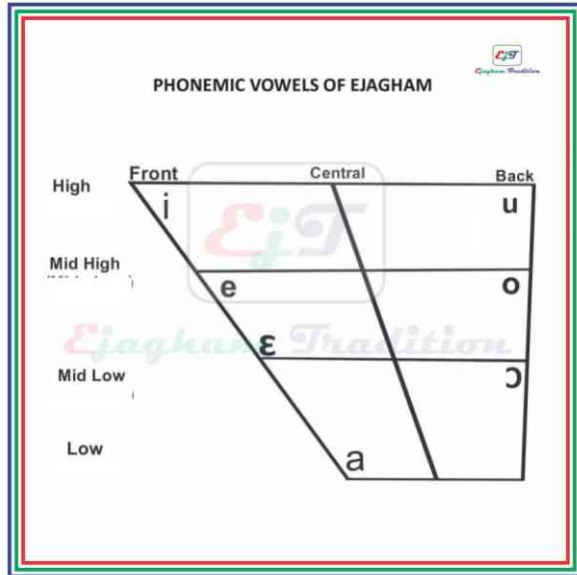
EjT wishes all EjT members and indeed Ejagham people a happy and prosperous 2024.





# 2023 IN PIX

@Ejagham Akamkpa



**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



Prof. Stella Ansa explaining the consonant, vowel charts, syllable structure and tones of the proposed orthography



L-R Mfon Brownson and Mr. Idoreyin Attah offering technical services

**PHONEMIC CONSONANTS IN EJAGHAM**

**PLACES OF ARTICULATION**

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



L-R Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong & DC Ekup-Nse coordinating the exercise



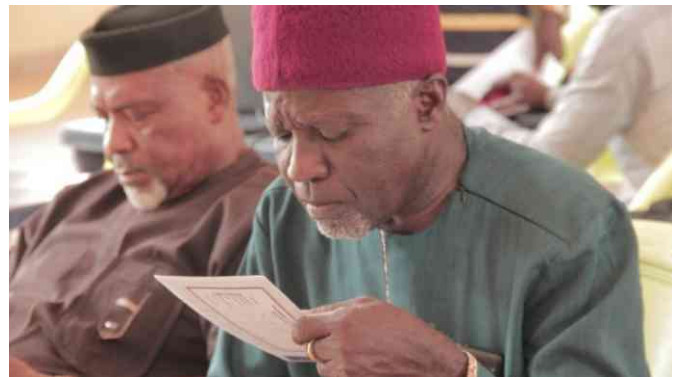
*L-R Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong & DC Ekup-Nse coordinating the exercise*



*Media: Participants seeing the project documentary*



*Participants filling out the questionnaires*



*HRM Ntol Atol Julius Ayate, Paramount Ruler-elect Ogoja LGA -CRS, reading EJT presentation leaflet*



*Mrs. Rose Egbe coordinating the exercise*



*Prof. Bassey Okon explaining the consonant, vowel charts, syllable structure and tones of the proposed orthography*



*Participants filling out the questionnaires*



*Members of the Technical Team*





*DC Ekup-Nse demonstrating to participants*



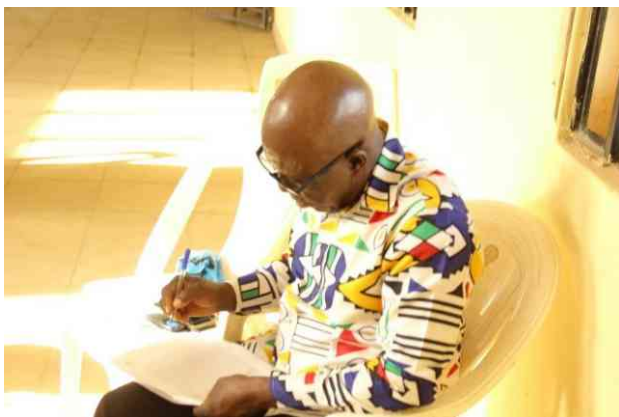
*Sesseku Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret, EjT-VP Ejagham Cameroon*



*Participants filling out the questionnaires*



*Ugban Ita Akuku filling out the questionnaire*



*Ugban Ibu Monkom, EjT-VP Ejagham Bakor, filling the questionnaire*



*Dr. Ikani Wogar filling out the questionnaire*



*Mr. Mfon Brownson handling the technical services*





@Ejagham Etung



*DC Ekup-Nse coordinating*



*HRM Ntufam Raphael Ekuri Agbor, Paramount Ruler-elect Etung LGA-CRS, filling out the questionnaire*



*DC Ekup-Nse briefing participants*



*Participant filling out the questionnaire*



*Members of the Technical Team*



*Participants filling out the questionnaires*







*Technical Team coordinating participants*



*Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong briefing Participants*



*L-R DC Ekup-Nse & Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong*



*Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong saluting the Royals*



*Royal participants*

**@Ejagham in Cameroon**



*Participants filling the questionnaires and abridged Ejagham wordlist*



*Participants*







*Participants filling the questionnaires and abridged Ejagham wordlist*



*On behalf of Eyomojock Traditional Association, Ntufam Arrah Thomas Takang present transportation fare support to EJT contingents*



*L-R Sesseku (Iyamba) Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret presenting EJT Memorabilia to HRH Chief Moses*



*L-R Facilitators: DC Ekup-Nse, Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho & Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong*



*Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho decorated with EJT materials*



*HRH Chief Moses Obenofunde and other Royals*





Participants savouring their launch



Participant filling the abridged Ejagham wordlist



Participants watching the Project's documentary



Participant filling the abridged Ejagham wordlist



HRH Chief Moses Obenofunde branding EJT Obenofunde



@Ejagham Qua



Participants with facilitators





**@Akparabong Intelligibility Test**



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



Mr. Agim Nchor Takon and Mr. Efoke Obi Njar



Mrs. Philomena Owan Obaji



@Ejagham Students





@Ejagham Language Codification (ELC)  
Technical Team meet EjT President

