



Ejaghama Tradition

QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE
APRIL - JUNE, 2025

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

Is Ejagham Large Enough and Strong Enough to Sustain Anything?

As I reflect on our mission and the meaningful progress we strive to achieve, I am reminded of a thought-provoking question from a recent article I read that deeply resonated with me. Its insights are not only relevant but also worth sharing as we continue to drive impactful change to promoting Ejagham heritage.

"Is your community large enough and strong enough to sustain anything?"

Now, let's personalize this question for ourselves: Is Ejagham large enough and strong enough to sustain anything?

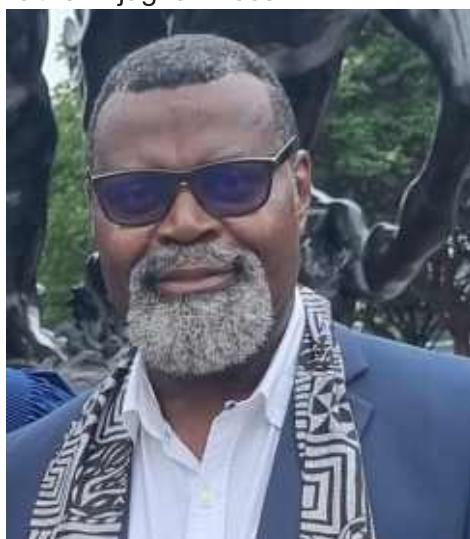
This is not a question to be answered hastily. It requires careful contemplation, supported by facts and figures that demonstrate the sustainability of past endeavours by Ejagham people.

In our pursuit to not just promote and preserve Ejagham heritage but also make our mark in the community of cultures, we must undertake initiatives that transcend us, efforts that will endure and strengthen our cultural identity. To this end, we must create initiatives that will:

Showcase Ejagham local content, including music, stories, and cultural events.

Preserve our cultural heritage through traditional music, folklore, and discussions.

Celebrate our cluster diversity by providing platforms for the different Ejagham clusters to share their Ejaghamness.



NTUFAM ENGR. CHRIS ANOM CENG, CMARENG, FIMAREST, FRINA

Empower individuals and groups within Ejagham communities to voice their heritage stories, ideas, and aspirations.

Support Ejagham arts, crafts and culture by hosting live concerts, promoting local art shows and performances, and serving as a hub for oral histories and artist features.

Reach remote Ejagham communities, ensuring access to cultural content and information that mainstream media may overlook.

Revitalize Ejagham language by promoting its use and strengthening linguistic heritage.

Disseminate timely and pertinent information that enables rural Ejagham communities to improve their lives, make informed decisions, and address socio-economic challenges.

All of the above ambitions can be encapsulated in one transformative initiative - an ***Ejagham Community Radio***. Ejagham Community Radio will be instrumental in uniting our people, amplifying our voices, promoting and preserving our culture for generations to come. However, this ambitious transformative initiative can only be actualised with the collective support of Ejagham people like you.

I have shared this idea with a few Ejagham individuals, and now, I extend this conversation to you, all EjT members and the greater Ejagham community.

So, I ask again:

"Is Ejagham Large Enough and Strong Enough to Sustain an Ejagham Community Radio?"

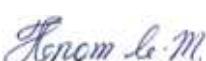
Please consider this question deeply and respond thoughtfully. As for me, my position could not be more obvious.

I invite you to share your thoughts by reaching out to:

eit@ejaghamtradition.org
chrisanom@ejaghamtradition.org

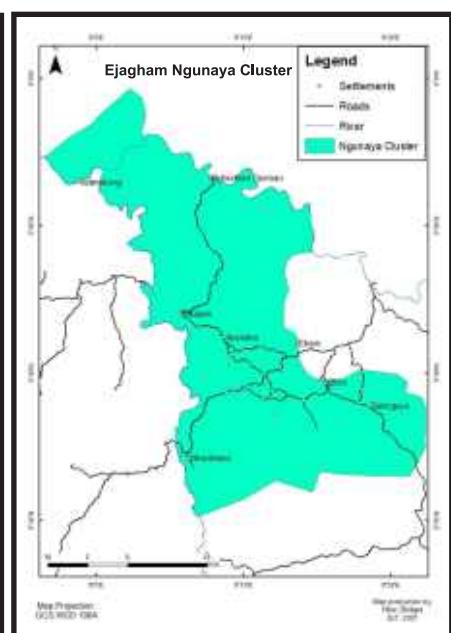
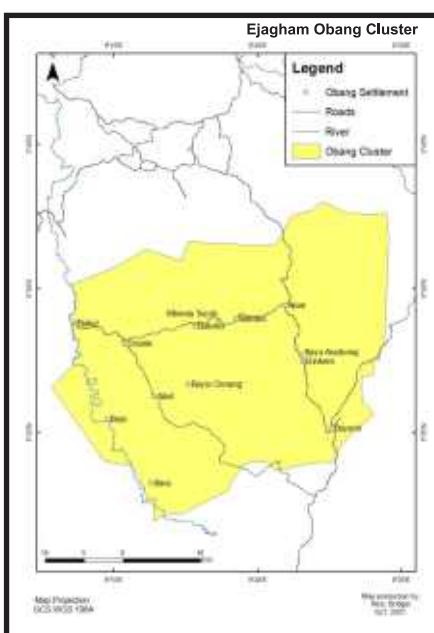
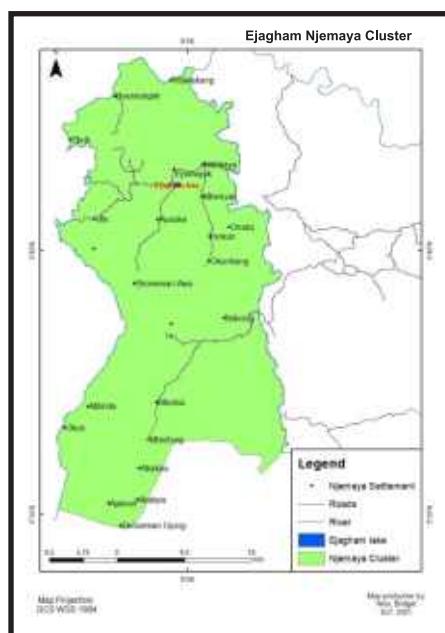
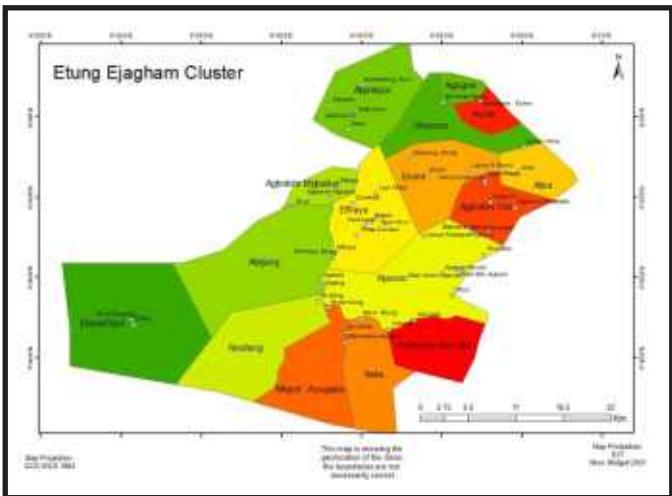
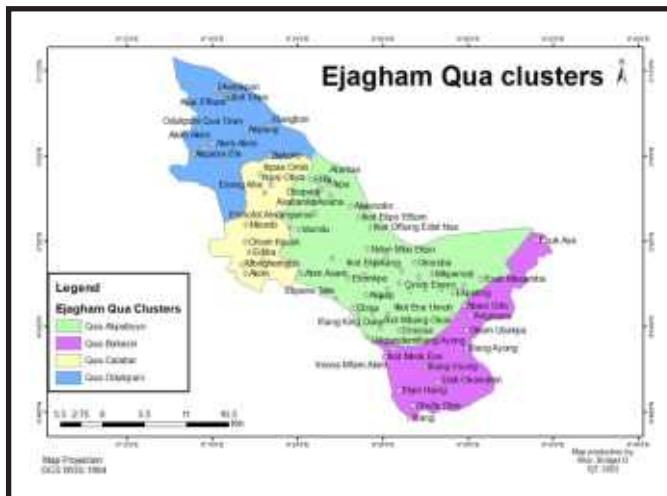
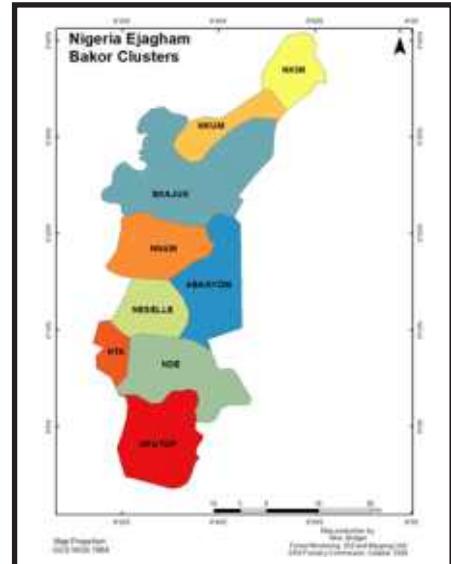
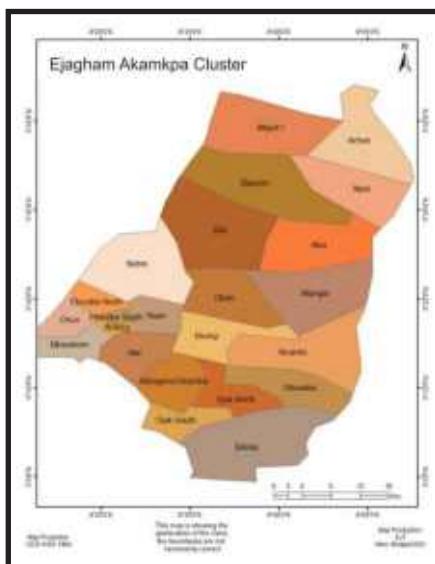
Remember, we are stronger together than we will ever be, divided.

Ekup na njad.



President, EjT

EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



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

Q2 2025 ACTIVITIES

EjT Submits Revised Ejagham Language Orthography (RELO) to Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), Abuja.

The Ejagham Tradition Centre (EjT) is pleased to state the successful submission of the finalised Revised Ejagham Language Orthography (RELO) to the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) in Abuja on Monday 26th May, 2025. This significant milestone follows the meticulous revision process undertaken by the EjT Technical Committee after the maiden RELO Conference, which was held in Calabar, Cross River State, from July 31 to August 2, 2024.

Upon the completion of this process, EjT President, Ntufam (Engr) Chris Anom, delegated Nta Dominic Awor to present the final RELO document to NERDC.

Official Engagements at NERDC

Upon arrival at the NERDC headquarters, a courtesy visit was paid to Dr. Mrs. Nkechi Adiele, Director of the Language Development Department. Her department worked closely with the EjT Technical Committee, ensuring a seamless and comprehensive revision of the document. On behalf of the EjT President and



L – R: Dr. Victor Ekwuokoma, Director of Language Development Centre Dr. Nkechi Adiele, Nta Dominic Awor and Director of Language Development Center Dr. Garba Gandu.

the Ejagham people, heartfelt appreciation was conveyed by Nta Dominic Awor for their invaluable contributions.

Dr. Adiele expressed her satisfaction with the well-structured RELO document, recognising it as a significant step in revitalising the Ejagham language. She reaffirmed the department's commitment to supporting the curriculum development process to ensure its eventual publication.

Accompanied by Dr. Nkechi Adiele and Dr. Victor Ekwuokoma, a brief visit was made to Dr. Garba Gandu, Director of Curriculum Development, who also supported the RELO Conference in Calabar.

Formal Presentation to the Executive Secretary

Following these engagements, Dr. Adiele led the delegation to the office of Professor Salisu Sani, Executive Secretary of NERDC. She formally introduced the EjT representative and provided an overview of the journey and efforts undertaken by EjT and the Ejagham people to standardise their language for international recognition through curriculum development.



Formal submission of the RELO Report. L-R: Executive Secretary of NERDC Prof. Salisu Sani, Director of Language Development Department NERDC Dr. Nkechi Adiele and the EjT representative Nta Dominic Awor.

In response, Professor Sani commended the Ejagham Tradition Centre and the broader Ejagham community for their commendable dedication to preserving their linguistic and

cultural heritage. He assured EjT of NERDC's full support and cooperation in the development of the Ejagham Language curriculum.

The highlight of the occasion was the formal presentation of the Revised Ejagham Language Orthography document by Nta Dominic Awor, on behalf of EjT President Ntufam (Engr) Chris Anom, to the Executive Secretary of NERDC, Professor Salisu Sani.

Acknowledgment and Future Outlook

This momentous achievement marks a critical step toward ensuring that the Ejagham language receives the recognition and institutional framework needed for teaching and development. As Ejagham continues to make strides in reclaiming its linguistic heritage, EjT remains dedicated to advancing this mission.

Special gratitude is extended to EjT President Ntufam (Engr) Chris Anom for his leadership and the privilege granted to represent EjT and the Ejagham nation in this historic submission. Ejagham is on a path of remarkable progress, and in the near future, it will reclaim its rightful place in the global linguistic landscape.

**Long live Ejagham Qua!
Long live Ejagham Etung!
Long live Ejagham Bakor!
Long live Ejagham Obang!
Long live Ejagham Njemaya!
Long live Ejagham Ngunaya!
Long live Ejagham Akamkpa!**

Jighi jighi, nne ajigha ejeh – Revere your own.

Ekup na nkad.



**Nta Dominic Awor
EjT Liaison - Abuja**

<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/ejt-submits-revised-ejagham-language-orthography-relo-to-nigerian-educational-research-and-development-council-nerdc-abuja/>

RELO - The Look Ahead: Initiating the Ejagham Language Curriculum Development Process.

Following the submission of the final RELO report, we remained confident in the quality and rigor of the proposal prepared by the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages at the University of Calabar. Our confidence extended to a strong belief that the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) would respond favorably.

In anticipation of this, the EjT Leadership Team proactively began developing a strategic implementation plan for integrating Ejagham into the school curriculum across Ejagham-speaking communities.



RELO TECHNICAL TEAM AND EJT LEADERSHIP TEAM

While we were prepared for the extended timelines that often accompany bureaucratic processes, we were pleasantly surprised by NERDC's response, received on **June 23, 2025**. In their communication, NERDC indicated that while their review of the submitted draft RELO was still underway, we could proceed with initiating the Ejagham Language Curriculum development process. Whether this constitutes full approval remains open to interpretation—but it certainly signals a green light in practice.

This official communication marks a significant milestone in the RELO initiative. We are proud to celebrate this critical milestone for the RELO initiative with you. As previously emphasized, it affirms the scholarly

depth and diligence of the University of Calabar's Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages. Accordingly, our focus has now shifted from advocacy to full-scale planning and implementation. NERDC's response has only strengthened our resolve.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM EJAGHAM NIGERIA AND CAMEROON AT RELO CONFERENCE IN CALABAR

The primary objective behind the development of the RELO initiative is to facilitate the inclusion of the Ejagham language in school curricula. That moment has arrived. Throughout the development process, the leadership of all seven clusters within the Ejagham nation played an instrumental role and demonstrated unwavering support. As we look to the future, we anticipate continued collaboration, not only from the cluster leaders, but also from the broader Ejagham community and allies who share our vision.



EYUMOJOCK TRADITIONAL RULERS' ASSOCIATION AND EJT REPRESENTATIVES DURING INTELLIGIBILITY TEST AT LIMBE

In the days and months ahead, we will be reaching out to galvanize support, mobilize resources, and collaborate with educators, community leaders, and our various stakeholders to bring Ejagham into classrooms, ensuring the language's vitality for generations to come.



EJAGHAM BAKOR TRADITIONAL RULERS' COUNCIL AND EJT REPRESENTATIVES DURING INTELLIGIBILITY TEST

To everyone who has supported this initiative in any form, we extend our sincere gratitude. This milestone was made possible by your dedication. That said, the journey to institutionalizing our mother tongue is far from over. We will continue to rely on your partnership as we take the next steps together. We need your support, financially and otherwise.



CROSS SECTION OF EJAGHAM PEOPLE AT RELO CONFERENCE IN CALABAR

Reflecting on Our Journey: The RELO Timeline at a Glance

The RELO project has spanned a considerable period, five years to be precise, and whether due to its longevity or the collective excitement surrounding NERDC's official authorization to proceed with curriculum development, it is easy to overlook how far we have come. Yet, revisiting our beginnings is essential to fully appreciate the milestones we have achieved.

While the journey has been punctuated by both challenges and moments of great enthusiasm across all stakeholders, the milestones graphic presented below provides a clear and grounded perspective on our progress. It highlights key deliverables and timelines, with guidance from our Ancestors in the form of Nsibidi, offering an opportunity to reflect on our achievements.



Ladies and gentlemen, as we stand at this pivotal moment, there is every reason to extend our heartfelt congratulations to one another. The road ahead, *implementation of RELO*, presents its own set of challenges, but with the momentum and bond we have built together, we are well-positioned to face it with confidence and resolve.

If you happened to miss the RELO development and approval journey, there's no need for concern. A significant phase lies ahead, and your participation is more vital than ever.

We are now moving full steam into the RELO Implementation journey. This is your opportunity to get on board and contribute meaningfully to shaping the future. Don't let this train pass by again, your expertise and energy are not only welcomed, they are needed.

The future needs you. And it needs you now.

EjT Core Values

EjT operates under a structured governance system, which is embodied in the EjT Corporate Management System. A fundamental aspect of this system is our set of Core Values, which define the principles guiding our behaviors and decision-making.

These Core Values serve as the foundation for the expectations placed on the Leadership Team and all EjT members as we conduct



activities within the organization. Over time, the Leadership Team has carefully refined and deliberated on these values, and in May 2025, they formally established the definitive set of Core Values that will shape EjT's culture and operations.

Above is an overview of the EjT Core Values. Each member is expected to learn, uphold, and integrate these principles into all activities, discussions, and engagements related to EjT.

Our Blog

The EjT website is a comprehensive platform dedicated to various aspects of Ejagham heritage. With its wide scope and extensive categories, navigating the site for the latest updates or trending topics can sometimes be a challenge, especially given today's fast-paced digital habits.

To help our fast-paced digital habits, we created **“Our Blog”**. This curated section



features recent cultural topics that have undergone our in-depth Triple-D treatment, making it easier to access the most relevant content, particularly if you've downloaded the **EjT App** to your device.

Through **“Our Blog”**, Ejagham sons and daughters have supported our Triple-D efforts by contributing their knowledge of Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions. These shared insights not only preserve Ejagham heritage knowledge but also make it accessible to a wider audience, allowing many to reconnect with and better understand their cultural roots. Some of the published topics include:

- Tradition of the Ejagham Qua in Calabar
- Basis of the Ejagham Calendar – EjT Dimension
- THE OBASI-NJOM – God of Cult Agency
- MBING EKAN – An Aspect of the Ekan Institution in Ejagham
- The Amgbu Institution in Ejagham
- Oban Akachak Festival: Where Culture Meets Nature
- Mkpem Traditional Dance of the Nyaje Community
- Ejagham Tradition Custodians – An Overview
- Ejagham Bakor New Yam Festival

Given the depth and richness of Ejagham heritage, the few topics explored thus far barely begin to scratch the surface. In light of this, we are calling on all Ejagham sons and daughters who value and cherish our cultural legacy to take an active role in its preservation. We encourage you to document and share your knowledge by submitting write-ups on any aspect of Ejagham heritage with which you are familiar. Every contribution is a vital step toward safeguarding our identity for future generations. Visit Our Blog at <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/our-blog/>

Matter Arising from EjT Members WhatsApp Group.

Ejagham Language Adulteration vs Preserving the Integrity of Ejagham Language

EjT members are well aware of the risks threatening the preservation of Ejagham heritage. These risks broadly include **Erosion**, **Dilution**, **Adulteration**, **Misinterpretation**, and, in some cases, **Extinction** of Ejagham traditional practices and cultural expressions - a phenomenon we refer to as **EDAME**.

Recently, discussions on the EjT Member WhatsApp platform have centered around concerns regarding the adulteration of the Ejagham language. Specifically, many words commonly used in Ejagham are either shared with or perceived to be borrowed from other linguistic traditions. The extent of their usage varies across clusters, but all clusters are affected by this phenomenon. The key question remains: Are these words inherently Ejagham, borrowed, or shared?

Examples below are some of the words shared by the Efiks and Ibibios:

- **Ekpang** (Ekpang food)
- **Ekpang** (Towel)
- **Beb** (To ask a question)
- **Kere** (To think of something)
- **Ufen** (Suffering)
- **Tim** (To beat someone)
- **Nwed** (Book)
- **Enang-ukuak** (Bicycles)
- **Ekpokoro/Okpokoro** (Table)
- **Ubob-eba** (Breazier)
- **Mbuk** (Tell stories)
- **Utuen-ikang** (Lantern)
- **Iko-obasi** (Church)
- **Etim** (They beat)
- **Beb** (To ask)
- **Ikpa-ukot/Ikpo-ukot** (Shoes)
- **Mongmong ikong** (Waterleaf)
- **Yangha** (To help or assist)
- **Nkanika** (Bell, Clock)
- **Esop** (Court)
- **Bob** (To tie)

Given this concern, it was collectively agreed that a comprehensive list of these contentious words should be compiled, followed by a study to determine their true origins - whether they are native Ejagham, borrowed words, or shared linguistic elements.

A successful example of such determination is the word "**Esang**", meaning "**Walking Stick**" in English. Through research, it was established that a plant native to the Ejagham forest is called Esang. Traditionally, Ejagham people have used this plant to craft canes and walking sticks for elders, hence its name Esang within the language.

If you are aware of any similar words that pose a risk to the integrity of the Ejagham language, we invite you to contribute to our ongoing efforts. Please reach out to us via WhatsApp or email at Ejt@ejaghamtradition.org as we work to develop this list and protect our linguistic heritage.

Challenges - Lack of Funding

We are all aware that currently, 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 organization 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 organization's efforts. Members and well-meaning Ejagham sons and daughters can donate directly to the organization account below.

Kindly donate to:

Account name: Ejagham Tradition Centre

Account no.: 203 588 3685

Bank name: First Bank Nigeria.

Appendix 1: The RELO Timeline at a Glance



If you happened to miss the RELO development and approval journey, there's no need for concern. A significant phase lies ahead, and your participation is more vital than ever.

We are now moving full steam into the RELO Implementation journey. This is your opportunity to get on board and contribute meaningfully to shaping the future. Don't let this train pass by again, your expertise and energy are not only welcomed, they are needed.

The future needs you. And it needs you now.

Let's move forward, together.

Ntufam Engr. Chris Anom

Appendix 2: The EjT Core Values

Integrity

- No cheating or double standard. Be honest and ethical at all times.

Respect

- Respect for the law, one another and constituted authority.

Defend

- Protect and preserve Ejagham heritage - Ejagham values, traditions, and cultural identity.

Caring

- We do care. Protect and enhance EjT reputation, putting each other and our heritage at the center of all we do.

Passion

- Show deep, relentless and unwavering commitment to Ejagham heritage matters.

Team Work

- Synergy, Integrated Relationship - we do better together. Work together to become the best EjT can be.

Appendix 3: Proposed Revised Ejagham Language Orthography (RELO)

PHONEMIC CONSONANTS IN EJAGHAM							
MANNERS OF ARTICULATION	PLACES OF ARTICULATION						
	Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar	Palato-Alveolar	Palato-vestibular	Palato-	Velar
	P	b	t	d	kp	gb	k
	m		n		p		tj
	f	v	s	z			
					tʃ	dʒ	
							t

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

