



Ejagham Tradition



QUARTERLY REPORT

**EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE
OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2024**

Authorised by: President, EjT

CONTENTS

Organisational Direction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Mission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Objectives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
From The President -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Egafra, Gafol, Thank You	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ejagham Nation Composition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Q4 2024 Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
RELO -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
The EjT Website	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
EjT App	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Honorary Chieftaincy Title - EjT President in the Mix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Development of Ejagham Language Translation Tool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Festivals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
CHALLENGES - Lack of Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Q4 2024 in Pix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Appendix 1: Proposed Revised Ejagham Language Orthography (RELO)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Appendix 2: Chieftaincy Conferment Pictures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

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

Egafra, Gafol, Thank You.

2023 was a year of good memories not just for EjT members but for Ejagham people in general. There were some obvious and some less obvious milestones. Let's count some of our blessing;

Ejagham Language Codification (ELC): ELC started 4 years ago, a long time by any standard. However, we collectively weathered the storms and finally summoned Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to the Ejagham Metropolitan City, Calabar in August 2024. The milestone towards achieving a Revised Ejagham Language Orthography (RELO) is something every EjT member should be proud of and to that I say a hearty thank you. *Ekup na nkad.* <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/ejagham-language-codification-2/>

At Last They Met: The excitement of the above accomplishment may becloud the arguably even more important accomplishment. In what Iyamba Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret, in one of his poems captioned "At Last They Met", EjT brought the traditional leaderships of Ejagham people in Nigeria and Cameroon together at the RELO conference. All EjT members should be proud of making this rare occurrence a reality. To this, I say a hearty thank you. *Ekup na nkad.*

The Ejagham Identity: Ejagham identity mostly comes to the fore when there is a sense of political marginalization. Too bad. Most people identify as Qua, Akamkpa, Etung, Bakor,



NTUFAM. CHRIS ANOM CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST, FRINA

Njemaya, Ngunaya and Obang, instead of identifying as Ejagham. Most young people and some adults I have engaged with have to be reminded that they are Ejagham. Hitherto, the situation has not changed much, yet. But EjT is certainly driving that change. *We are Ejagham first.* EjT members should be proud of being a catalyst to this drive. To this, I say a hearty thank you. *Ekup na nkad.*

Healthy & Soul-searching Discussions:

These sorts of discussions are normal on EjT Members only WhatsApp platform. However, the last quarter of 2024 took it up a notch, ranging from socio-cultural to socio-economic and everything in between. In the process, members have learnt a lot about, relating to and concerning Ejagham, I believe. To this, I say a hearty thank you. *Ekup na nkad.*

First Ejagham App: The first (I stand to be corrected) ever Ejagham App on a global App play store became a reality recently at the instance of EjT. Members responded swiftly to the request to assist the developer ensuring that the project was completed in a timely manner. To this I say a hearty thank you to all. *Ekup na nkad.*

<https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/our-blog/>

Honorary Chieftaincy Title: This was an unexpected "Christmas gift". It never crossed my mind. This title is courtesy of the work done by EjT. This was possible because of EjT members. So even though it was awarded to me, my reality is that, the hard work, commitment and sacrifices of EjT members made it a reality. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. *Abor na nsi-a-nsi.*

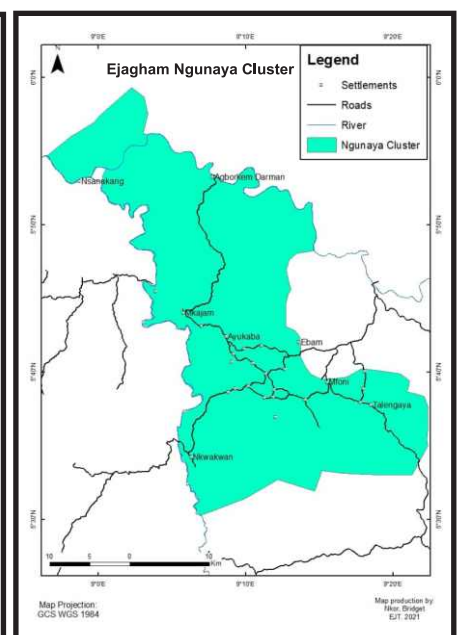
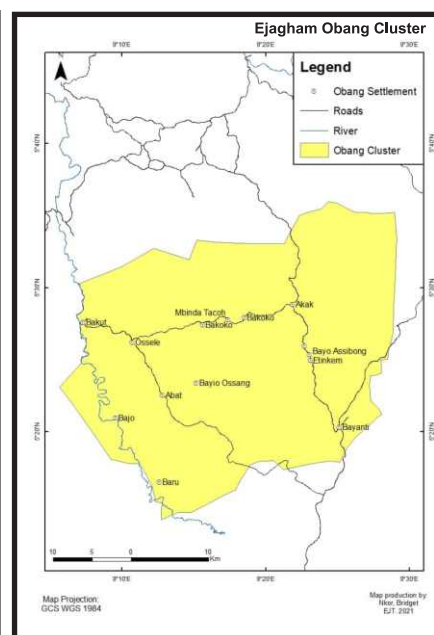
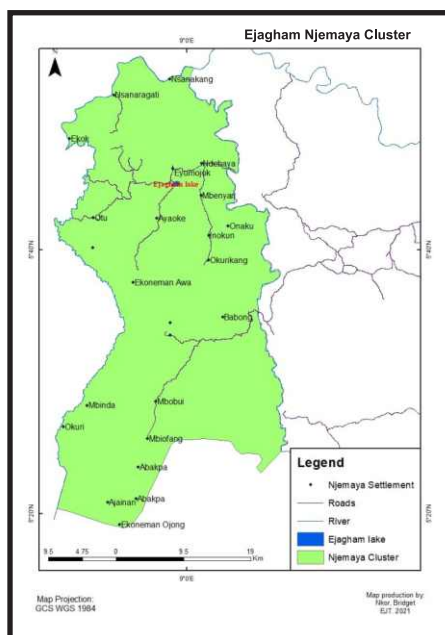
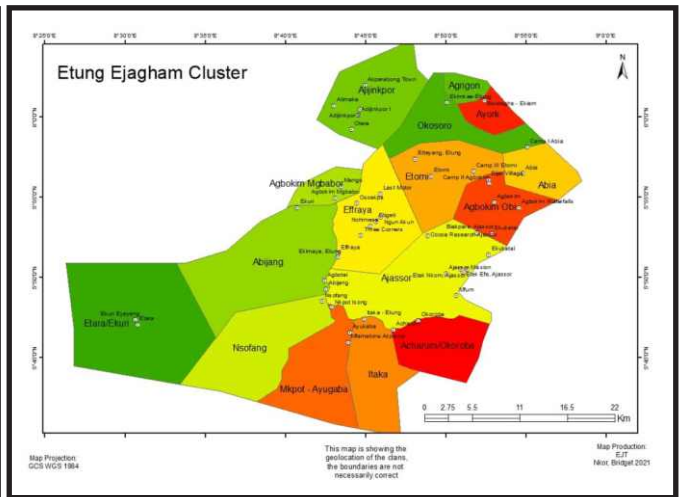
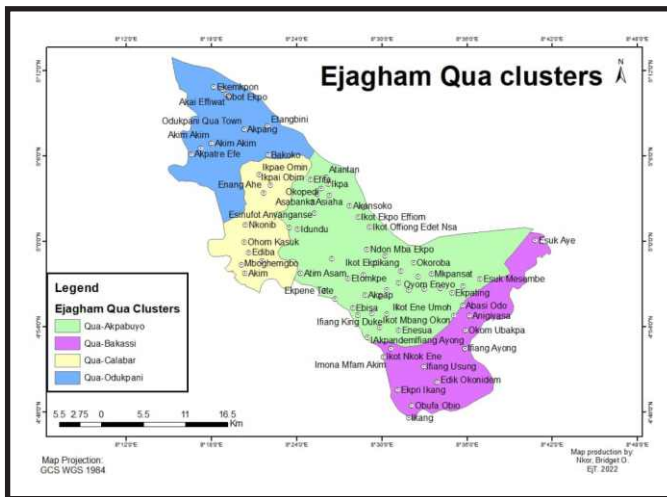
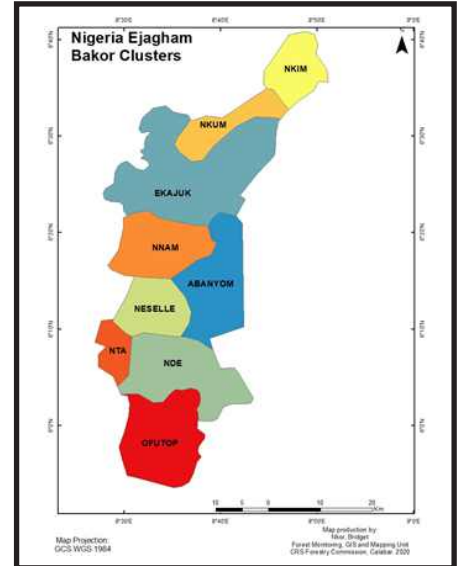
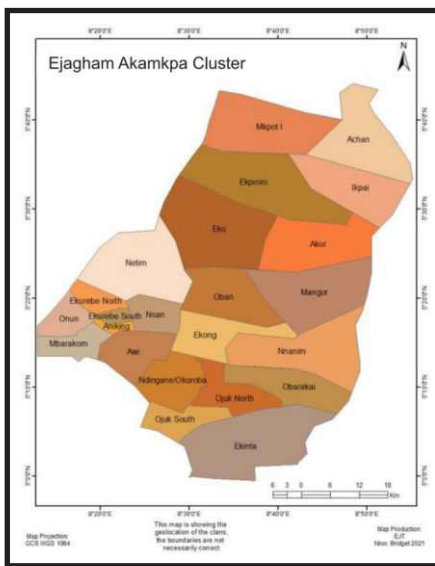
I could easily continue to mention a lot more milestones but this is not a game of numbers. It is a sincere extension of my gratitude for all you have done thus far as EjT members, to ensure that future Ejagham generations will have a reason to say "Proudly Ejagham".

Ekup na nkad.

Ntufam Engr. Chris Anom

Chris Anom
President, EjT

EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



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

Q4 2024 ACTIVITIES

RELO

After the completion of the last 2-day RELO event at Calabar, the Technical Team was saddles with the responsibility of updating the report that was presented to NERDC to reflect the corrections and also present the report in an approved NERDC template.

The updated report has been sent for further review before forwarding to NERDC in Abuja. It is expected that in the new year, the report will be ready for onward transmission to NERDC.

After completion of the 2-day RELO event donation pledges redemption continued. However, no further redemption has occurred recently.

Below is the financial summary of the event.

Budget = N12,049,705.00
Actual Cost = N10,711,701.00
Donations = N5,224,000.00
Loan = **N5,487,701.00**

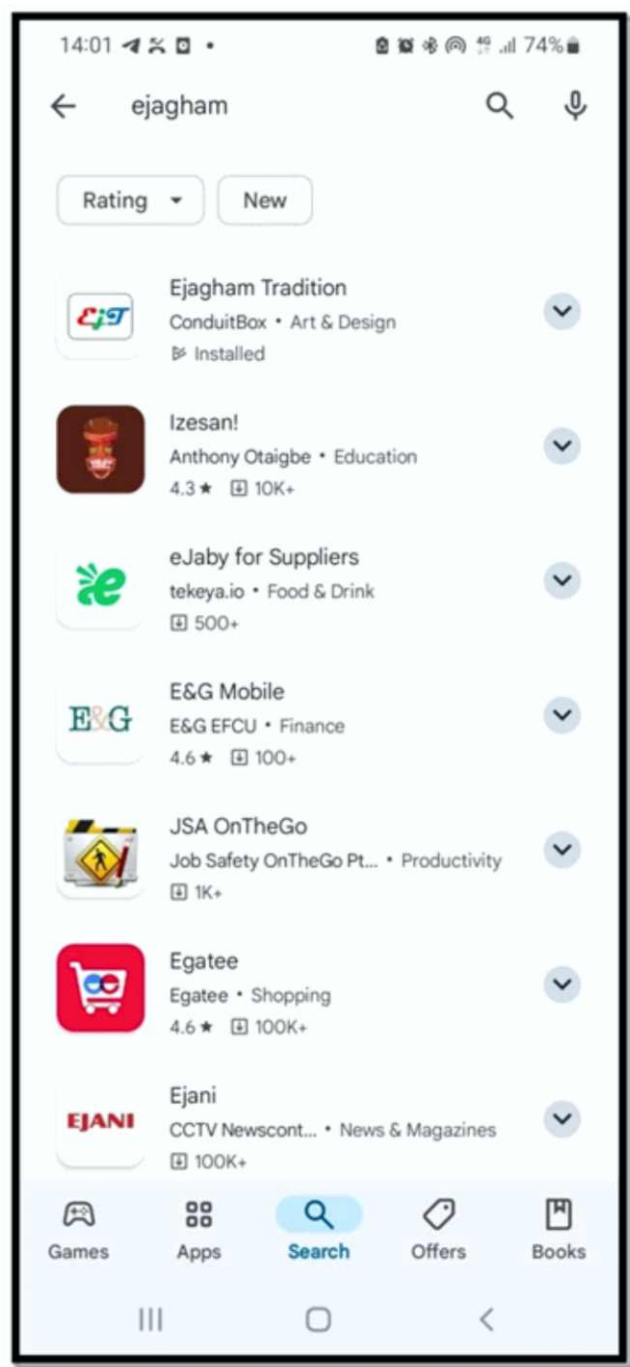
The EJT Website

In pursuing 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 (www.ejaghamtradition.org) is an Ejagham asset that you should be proud enough to direct relatives and friends to. It is, however, still work in progress, and every ounce of support would be appreciated, in cash and/or in kind.

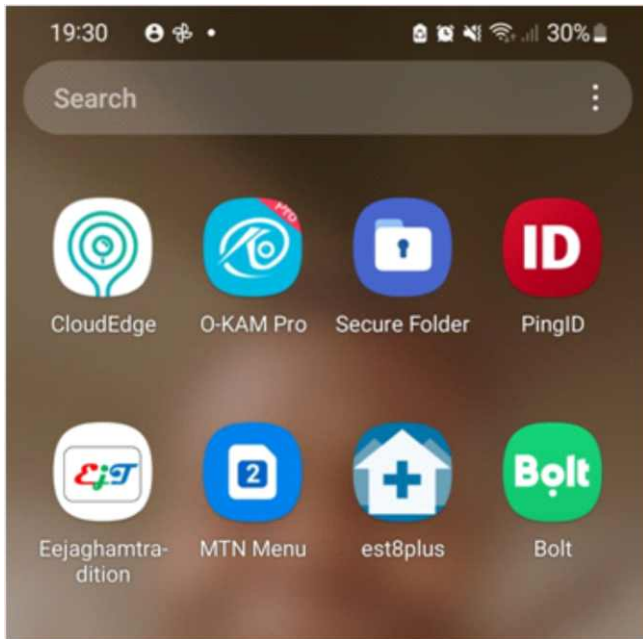
EJT App.

Consistent with our Triple-D strategy, and in response to a specific request by Ms. Abigail Efonghe-Obasi, EJT moved to develop a Mobile App for Ejagham Tradition. The project commenced on the 15th of April 2024 and on the day of our Lord 27th of November 2024 the Ejagham heritage App (the EJT App) featured in the Google Play Store. This is what is means to be Ejagham, Proudly Ejagham.

“The Ejagham Heritage App is a unique digital platform dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Ejagham people of Cross River State in Nigeria, Eyumojock Sub-division in South West Cameroon and beyond. This App serves as a living archive and interactive space for the Ejagham community and cultural enthusiasts worldwide.”



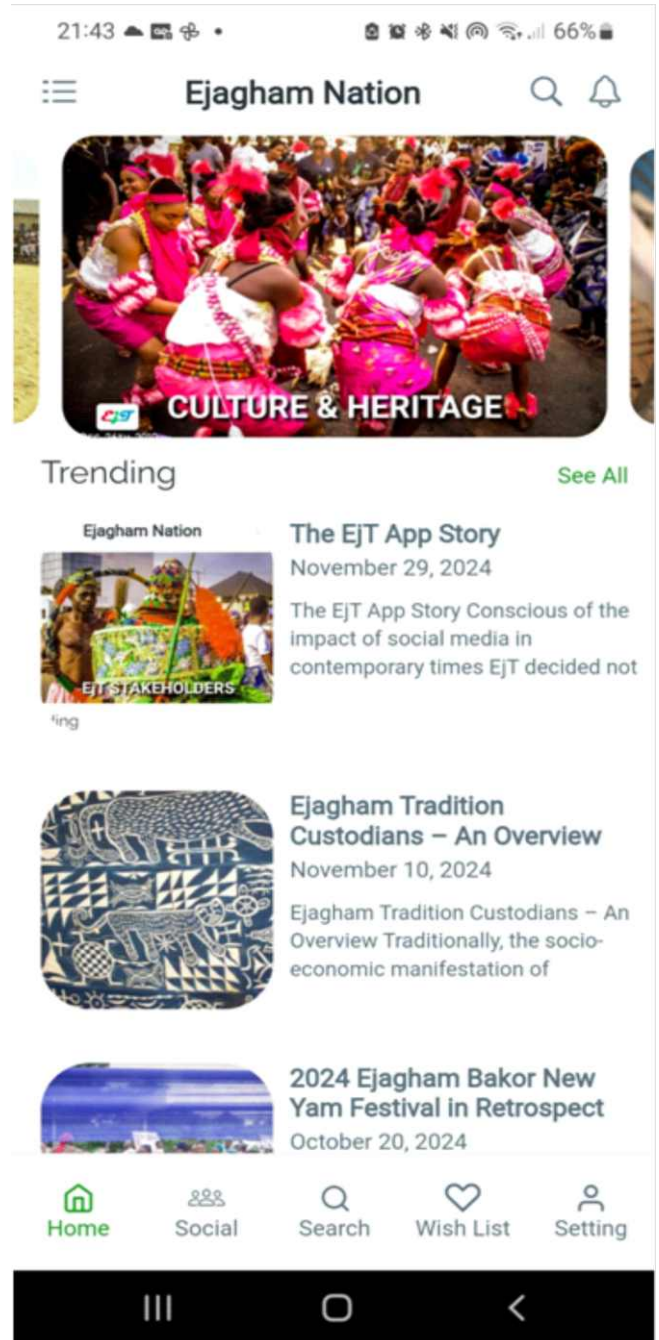
Google Play store Showing EJT App



EjT believes that little milestones such as the featuring of Ejagham App in global App Store will go long way in our Triple-D efforts.

We use this opportunity to reiterate that it is ok to have a good house (EjT Website) but it is the content of the house that determines if the house become a worthy home. Help provide Ejagham heritage contents so that we can, together, turn this house into a worthy home. You can contact EjT with your content via email at ejt@ejaghamtradition.org.

You may read the full EjT App Story on Our Blog at <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/>



EjT App Landing Page

Honorary Chieftaincy Title – EjT President honoured

An extract from Our Blog on EjT website Ejagham Tradition Custodian: An Overview states:

“The conferment of honorary chieftaincy title to an individual is foreign to Ejagham and a direct influence of the 21st century phenomena. It appears it has come to stay hence the need to clarify the reason, context and implications and or consequences.”

Reference to the extract above, honorary chieftaincy title award is now an integral part of Ejagham heritage. The whole chieftaincy conferment is tradition-based and always executed by the Natural Rulers. The conferment exercise is significant for many reasons. You may read the full Ejagham Tradition Custodians – An Overview, on Our Blog at <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/>

One of the reasons of its significance is that – it is an extension of **Sceptre of Authority** (in the area of conferment) preserved for the Natural Ruler, to the recipient. Note, the recipient is obliged to perform the responsibilities associated with the area of conferment on behalf of the Natural Rulers.

In December 21st, 2024, EjT President was a proud awardee of the coveted Ejagham Chieftaincy title, Ntufam Nchua Ojimi Ejagham.

Development of Ejagham Language Translation Tool

One of the deliverables of Ejagham Language Codification project is to develop Ejagham language translation tool. As you are aware, the organisation has made several calls for Ejagham sons and daughters to collaborate with EjT, volunteer their professional skills in support of our Mission, Vision and Objectives. We continue to make this call. One of our members responded to this clarion call.

To refresh your memory, apart from the singing and dancing of 2019 i.e. the Cultural Carnival that was meant to showcase Ejagham as one people, EjT subsequently launched three key initiatives; Ejagham Language Codification (ELC), Ejagham Language Translation Tool (ELTT) and Ejagham Journal and Book (EJB). Of course due to limited resources, amongst others, we prioritised ELC. It did not, however, mean that others were abandoned, far from it. In particular, subtle but steady pressure was still being applied to the Ejagham Language Translation Tool.

As a reminder, I would like to refer to an extract from EjT Q3 Report 2021 which reads (link to E j T R e p o r t s : <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/reports/>);

“One of the deliverables of Ejagham Language Codification project is to develop Ejagham language translation tool. As you are aware, the organisation has made several calls for Ejagham sons and daughters to collaborate with EjT, volunteer their professional skills in support of our Mission, Vision and Objectives. We continue to make this call. One of our members responded to this clarion call.”

I am happy to announce to you that the flag bearer of this project, Nta Ekaba Bissong, has made significant progress that every Ejagham son and daughter should be very proud of. Rev'd Ayamba Nkiri has accepted to support Nta Ekaba for the human interface of the ELLTT development.

Above reminder is important because without Prof. Ansa and Nta Ekaba to mention a few, offering their skills to EjT, ELC i.e. RELO and the ELTT would not have made any progress. There is nothing we cannot achieve for Ejagham if we work selflessly together.

So today, an academic paper on **“Ejagham-English Neural Machine Translation Model:**” is ready to be published. More importantly, the product of this paper is being vigorously progressed and Ejagham people would soon be able to use this Tool. Remember, when completed, the ELTT will “help document and disseminate literary works, oral histories, and educational materials in the target language” - Ejagham. Watch this space.

Festivals

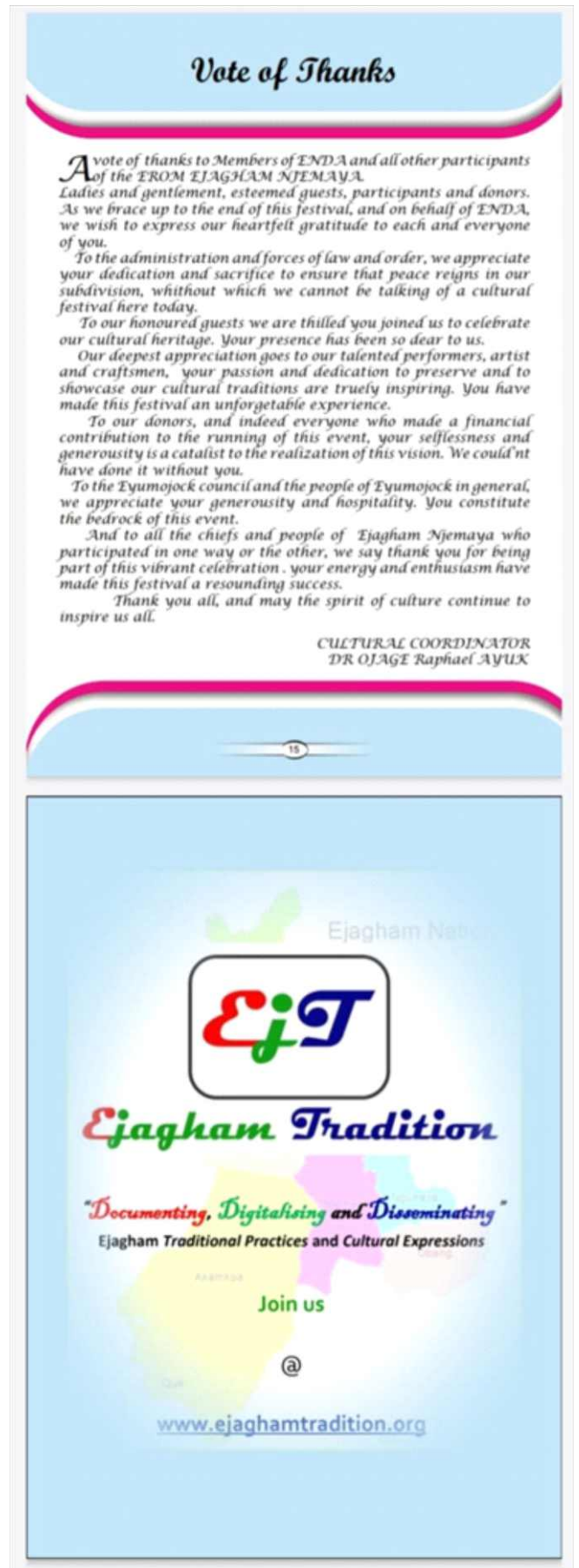
As expected, the later part of Q4 2024 was loaded with festivals; Ofu Oban by Ejik Oban, Qua Ejagham Festival by Qua Ejagham Cultural Association and Ejagham Njemaya Cultural Festival by ENDA.

All three organisations have EjT members. Although EjT did not send a delegation to any of the festivals, EjT did send a message to two of the events by advertising on the program booklets of Ofu Oban and ENDA.

The feedback from the first outing of Ejagham Njemaya Cultural Festival is that it was a huge success. It was a huge success not just by showcasing our heritage but by uniting the entire Cluster. This worthwhile characteristic is a reflection of similar achievement by Qua Ejagham Festival and Ejagham Bakor New Yam Festival. They all bring each cluster together in a show of unity of purpose. This is worth emulating by other clusters; Akamkpa, Etung, Ngunaya and Obang clusters.



Ofu Oban Program



Ejagham Njemaya Cultural Festival Program

It is expected that once the stakeholders' relationship with these organisations are cemented, EjT will play some role in the organising to ensure the events receive adequate Triple-D treatments.

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 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 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.



PHONEMIC CONSONANTS IN EJAGHGAM
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		m		n		ɲ	ŋ
Fricatives		f v	s z	ʃ			ɾ
Affricatives				tʃ dʒ			
Trill			r				
Lateral Affricates							
Lateral			l				
Approximants					w	j	

SYLLABLE AND TONE STRUCTURES OF EJAGHGAM

SYLLABLE STRUCTURES

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

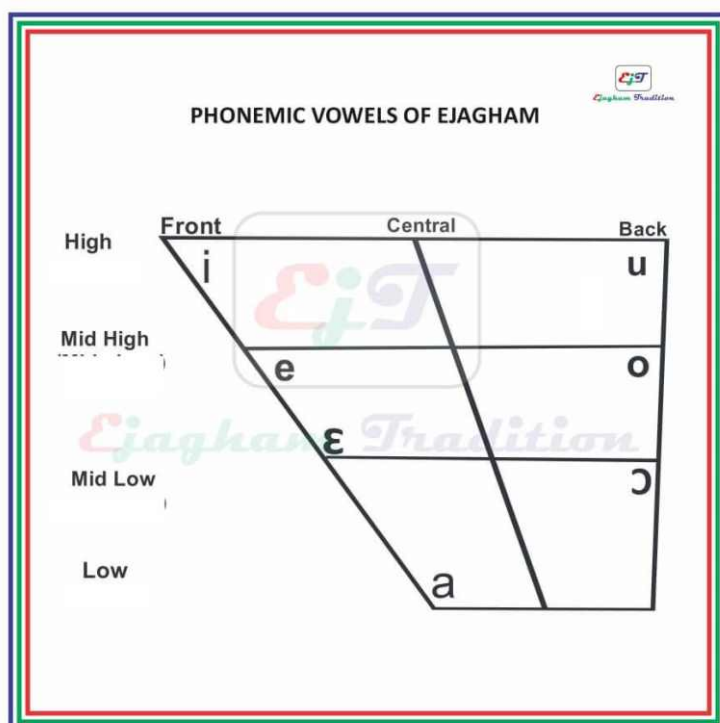
TONE STRUCTURES

LEVEL TONES

1. \checkmark	(H)	High
2. \vee	(L)	Low

CONTOUR TONES

1. \wedge	(H-L)	Rising- Falling
2. \vee	(LH)	Falling -Rising



Appendix 2: Chieftaincy Conferment Pictures



