

ASSOCIATION OF ESAN PROFESSIONALS

REPORT ON

**12TH ESAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP (EEEW),
2016**

THEME: ESAN LANGUAGE: IS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?

**VENUE: SAMUEL ADEGBOYEGA UNIVERSITY (SAU), OGWA,
EDO STATE**

12TH ESAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP (EEEW) COMMITTEE

Prof. Michael Ikhariale

Chairman

Dr. Celey Okogun

Mrs. Iguehi Adetiba

Ms. Semuan Ighodalo

Mrs. Roseline Ose Adinoyi

Barr. Chris Ebare

Mr. Patrick Ube

Mr. Obehi Okosun

Mr. Frans Ojielu

Mr. Edward Okoruwa

Mr. Steve Oboh

Emmanuel Okogun

INTRODUCTION

The 12th Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop (EEEW) was held on Friday, October 28, and Saturday, October 29, 2016 in Ambrose Alli Hall, Ekpoma (opposite Local Govt. Secretariat, Benin-Auchi Road) and Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa (Km 1 Ogwa-Ehor Road) respectively.

The first day, Friday, October 28, 2016, was the grand finale of an inter-secondary schools quiz competition on Esan Language by the five (5) Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Esanland at the Ambrose Alli Hall, Ekpoma. The school representing each LGA emerged through an elimination process by competing among other schools in the Local government Area. Ewu Grammer School, Ewu in Esan Central L.G.A won the first prize of one hundred thousand naira (N100,000)

The main workshop was held on the second day of the event at Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa. The Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Justin Okonoboh was in attendance.

It was well attended by distinguished guests, traditional rulers, secondary school students, staff/students of Samuel Adegboyega University and members of AEP.

The occasion was chaired by Sir Chief (Dr.) Ezekiel Ainabe, the Ojomo of Ekpoma. The Onogie of Ekpoma and the Onojie of Ogwa were the Host Royal Fathers while all traditional rulers in Esanland served as Royal Fathers of the Day.

Prof. (Mrs.) Philomena Ejele of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, University of Port Harcourt delivered a paper titled: "The Linguistic Characteristics of Esan Language: Towards its Empowerment and Development". This was followed by an interactive session by guests.

Beyond empowering Esan people, the 2016 workshop being the twelfth (12th) in the series was unique in many ways because it drew attention to the challenges of Esan Language, an issue confronting many families, it heralded the formal announcement/presentation/signing of collaboration MOU between Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa and AEP in the areas of Research and Development of Esanland as well as for the first time, the event was hosted in two (2) towns in the same Local Government Area in order to bring it closer to the people.

It is worthy of note that Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop (EEEW) started in 2004 at Ekpoma, Esan West Local Government Area and since then, it has been hosted twice in each of the five (5) Esan Local government Areas. And over the years, successive leadership of AEP have coordinated several Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop designed by the Association to address the pressing needs of Esanland by engendering dialogue amongst Esan people, with the view to promoting co-operation among the various stakeholders of Esanland in the hope that collectively we can evolve strategies that will enable the realization of a prosperous and industrialized EsanLand.

The 12th EEEW was another successful outing for AEP and was well commended by distinguished guests in attendance.

MARKETING

The committee adopted a conventional event marketing strategy to get people to attend. Thus, the following marketing methods were deployed to create awareness and get people to take action:

- A) Invitation letters/cards to prominent Esan sons and daughters
- B) Bulk SMS to all registered guests at the 11th EEEW (twice)
- C) Advertisement in national dailies, radio and television
- D) Personal contacts
- E) Invitation cards through Samuel Adegboyega university (20 copies), Chairman of the occasion (10 copies), Awardees (20 copies)
- F) Solicitation emails

ADVERTISEMENT

- 1. Half page colour Advert in Punch Newspaper, Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – Page 33
- 2. TV announcement in ITV Benin before the 7pm news
- 3. Radio announcement in ITV Radio (thrice): 6pm and 4 – 4:30 pm; and KUFM (Thrice): 10 – 10:30am
- 4. Banners - (two pieces in each of the five Esan LGAs) prior to the event, one large Stripe Banner at Ogwa Junction and two Venue banners

POST EVENT PUBLICITY

The 12th EEEW event was published in the following mass media;

- a) AIT Network on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 9 pm on Intra Hitlist and Cruzing programme
- b) TVC on Saturday, November 9, 2016 at 3 pm
- c) Vanguard on Thursday, November 10, 2016 – Page 23
- d) New Telegraph on Friday, November 11, 2016 - Page 8
- e) <http://leadership.ng/news/559321/stakeholders-brainstorm-over-fears-of-esan-language-extinction>
- f) <http://independentnig.com/expe-rt-s-monarchs-express-fears-over-esan-language-extinction/>
- g) www.esanprofessionals.org
- h) Esan Magazine
- i) Esan Magazine (Weekend Grove Watch)

EVENT ORGANISATION

The event was well- organized and well attended. Everything went as planned from the quiz competition to the workshop. The theme of the workshop caught some attention.

Day 1 - Quiz Competition

In line with the theme of the workshop, an inter-secondary school Quiz Competition on Esan Language (general test of Esan Language, Names, Sentences, Ceremonies, Idioms etc) was organized among schools in the Five L.G.As of Esanland. And to underscore the seriousness of the exercise, a Quiz Committee was set up comprising of Mr. Patrick Ube, the founder and presenter of "Esanokpebholo", Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Inegbeboh, the Director, Centre for Research and Development of Esanland, Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa, Hon. Alfred Okpere, Author and Esan Language Instructor and Mr. Emmanuel Okogun, the Programme Director, Association of Esan Professionals. The committee liaised with the ministry of education in the Five Esan L.G.As from time to time. Letters were sent to Chief Inspectors of Education (CIEs) in the Five L.G.As and personal contact to solicit their ministry's supervision, support and physical presence in the whole process to standardize the exercise and ensure a successful competition.

A total of Thirty seven (37) public and private secondary schools participated in the quiz competition

The grand finale was held on Friday, October 28, 2016 at Ambrose Alli Hall, Ekpoma and the schedule for the competition at the Local Government Level was:

Monday, October 24, 2016

Esan West L.G.A at Ujuelen Grammar School, Ekpoma

Esan Central L.G.A at Annunciation Catholic College (A.C.C.), Irrua

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Esan North East L.G.A at Esan Model Secondary School, Uromi (but was held on Thursday, October 26, 2016)

Esan South East L.G.A at St. John Bosco's Secondary School, Ubiaja

Igueben L.G.A at Igueben Grammar School, Igueben

The winners and all schools that participated at the competition received their prize money and certificate of participation accordingly at the main event held on Saturday, October 29, 2016. They are as follows:

Grand Finale Winners

1st Position – Ewu Grammar School, Ewu (Esan Central L.G.A) = N100,000

2nd Position – Efandion Secondary School, Uromi (Esan North East L.G.A) = N75,000

3rd Position – St. Andrew’s Catholic School, Emu (Esan South East L.G.A) = N50,000

N.B: In addition to the prize money the schools received certificate of participation each.

Local Government Area Winners

Esan West L.G.A – Eguare Secondary School, Ekpoma = N30,000

Esan Central L.G.A – Ewu Grammar School, Ewu = N30,000

Esan North East L.G.A – Efandion Secondary School, Uromi = N30,000

Esan South East L.G.A – St. Andrew’s Catholic School, Emu = N30,000

Igueben L.G.A – Igueben College (Junior), Igueben = N30,000

N.B: In addition to the prize money, the schools received certificate of participation each.

The following schools got certificate of participation only; Annunciation Catholic College (A.C.C), Irrua, Idunghela Girls Senior Secondary School, Ewu, Irrua Girls Secondary School, Irrua, St. Mark's secondary School, Ibore-Irrua, Zenith Royal College. Irrua, Agba Grammar School, Uromi, Esan Boys Model College, Uromi, Obiyon Secondary School, Uromi, Oriacle High School, Uromi, Our Lady of Lourds Girls Grammar School, Uromi, Ebelle Secondary Commercial School, Ebelle, Igueben Grammar School, Igueben, Igueben Mixed Secondary School, Igueben, Wisdom Group of School, Igueben, Kings Community Group of Schools, Igueben, St. John Boscus, Ubiaja, Agadaga Secondary School, Ewohimi, Edeikholo Secondary School, Ubiaja, Ewohimi Mixed Secondary school, Ewohimi, Obiaza Secondary School, Ubiaja, Okaigben Secondary School, Ewohimi, Okhuesan Secondary School, Okhuesan, Our Private secondary School, Ubiaja, Sacred Heart Girls Model College, Ubiaja, St Matthias Secondary School, Ubiaja, Unity Secondary School, Ubiaja, Emaudo Secondary school, Ekpoma, Palm International College, Iruekpen, Mount Carmel, Secondary School, Ekpoma, Uhiele Grammar School, Uhiele, Ekpoma, Ujemen Secondary School, Ujemen, Ekpoma, Ujoelen Grammar School, Ekpoma.

It was observed that many of the secondary schools in the L.G.As did not participate in the competition due to lack of transport fare to the venues of the competition.

The process and organization were lauded by all participants and observers. They called for the continuity of the exercise.

Day 2 – Main Event

Approximately 450 participants were in attendance comprising of traditional rulers/chiefs, distinguished guests, secondary school students/teachers, Staff/students of Samuel Adegboyega University and AEP members.

The workshop started behind schedule because of the environmental sanitation exercise.

It was well covered by cameramen and the press.

In the light of the Collaboration MOU between AEP and Samuel Adegboyega University (SAU), the University provided a very conducive atmosphere for the workshop. A well decorated event hall with a Public Address System was made available by the University at no cost to AEP. AEP members and guests were hosted to a luncheon by the University after the workshop.

Thereafter, AEP members in attendance proceeded to the Chair of the occasion, Chief (Dr.) Ezekiel Ainabe's country home for an After-Party Dinner

AWARD

At the main event, the deserving Esan Professionals awardees, Chief (Engr.) Patrick Inegbeniji Anegebe and Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Matthew Okpebolo received an inscribed crystal plaques each and were decorated with Igbulu and Izeakpa in accordance with the tradition of the Association.

DRAW BACKS

- Many of the expected Esan traditional rulers could not attend the workshop due to the clash of the event with the Onojie of Igubeben's new yam festival.
- The environmental sanitation exercise caused guests to arrive late at the main event. It is therefore recommended that in planning subsequent EEEW, the calendar should be checked to avoid a reoccurrence.
- There was a late budget approval resulting in last minute rush to meet deadline on some items
- AEP members did not sufficiently participate

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The objectives of the 2016 EEEW should be sustained (continuous) i.e. the protection and growth of Esan Language.
- AEP should approach the Edo State government for the re-introduction of Esan language in primary school curriculum in the 5 L.G.As of Esanland.
- The expansion of the spectrum/frequency of the proposed Esan Radio by Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa (SAUO) to a community radio with a coverage of the 5 Esan L.G.As
- AEP should set up a standing committee to ensure the continuity of objectives of the 2016 EEEW and the collaboration MOU with SAUO.

- Collaboration between AEP Vocation Center and SAU Center for Research and Development of Esanland (CERDEL) towards the certification and testing of the students of AEP Vocation Center.
- AEP members should exhibit more energy or enthusiasm towards agreed programmes of AEP to sufficiently see through the association's dreams.
- Members owing the 2016 EEEW levy and other donations should endeavour to pay up.
- Environmental sanitation day should be avoided for the main event
- Produce a hard copy photo album of the event subsequently.

CONCLUSION

The 12th Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop (EEEW) was generally adjudged a huge success. The 12th EEEW committee thanks the President, Exco and members of AEP for their cooperation and support towards the success of the 2016 Esan Economic Empowerment Workshop.

Signed:

Prof. Michael Ikhariale
Chairman, 12th EEEW 2016

APPRECIATION

The 12th EEEW committee wishes to thank the following individuals for their invaluable contributions to the success of the event:

1. HRH. (Barr) Victor Agbonmere Ehizogie II, The Onojie of Ogwa
2. HRH. (Barr) Athony Ehizojie Abumere II, The Onojie of Ekpoma
3. HRH Aidonogie I, The Onojie of Urohi
4. All Enijie in Esanland
5. All chiefs in attendance
6. Chief (Dr.) & Chief (Mrs.) Ezekiel Ainabe, JP, The Ojomo of Ekpoma
7. Prof. Benard .E. Aigbokhan, The Vice Chancellor, Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa
8. Rt. Hon. Justin Okonoboh, Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly
9. Prof. (Mrs.) Philomena Ejele, Dept. of Linguistics & communication, University of Port Harcourt
10. Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Inegbeboh
11. Chief (Engr.) Patrick Anegebe
12. Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Matthew Okpebholo
13. Hon. Alfred Okpere
14. Mr. A.E. Ibhafidon
15. Engr. Dr. Leemon Ikpea
16. Mr. Emmanuel Ijewere

17. Dr. Celey Okogun
18. Mr. Patrick Ube
19. Lee Engineering
20. Ray Royal Construction Company Limited
21. Ritsoil petroleum and Gas Limited
22. Owel Industries Nigeria Limited
23. ICMG Commodities Limited
24. Intercontinental Distillers Limited (VELETA SPARKLING FRUIT DRINK)
25. Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa
26. CIEs in Esan 5 Local Government Areas
27. Esan Area Commander
28. DPO Esan West LGA

The committee profoundly appreciates the President of AEP, Hon. (Barr.) Matthew Egbadon. His immeasurable contributions to the success of the 12th EEEW is uncommon. We are most grateful to him for his leadership, commitment and love for Esan course.

APPENDIX

REPORT ON THE JUST CONCLUDED QUIZ COMPETITION IN ESAN LANGUAGE AMONG THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE FIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN ESANLAND, AS ORGANISED BY ASSOCIATION OF ESAN PROFESSIONALS (A E P) DURING HER 12TH ESAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP 2016

Introduction:

The quiz competition was aimed at re -awakening the interest of Esan sons and daughters both at home and the Diaspora in the speaking of Esan Language in the area.

The competition was in two phases

(i.) The preliminary stage was at the Local Government level where the schools in each of the L.G.A converged in designated centers of such L.G.A.

(a.) In Esan Central 14 Local Government Area

Six (6) schools participated. The schools were:-

- (1.) Annunciation Catholic College (A C C), Irma
- (2.) Ewu Grammar School, Ewu.
- (3.) Idunghele Girls Senior, Secondary School, Ewu.
- (4.) Irrua Girls Secondary School, Irrua.
- (5.) St. Mark's secondary School, Ibore-Irrua.
- (6.) Zenith Royal College. Irrua.

The venue was Annunciation Catholic College (A C C), Irrua.

Thirty questions were used. At the end, **Ewu Grammar School, Ewu** emerged as the winner in the Local Government Area.

(b.) Esan North — East Local Government Area

Here, six schools participated. These were:-

- (1.) Agba Grammar School, Uromi.
- (2.) Efandion Secondary School, Uromi.
- (I) Esan Boys Model College, UrOmi.
- (4.) Obiyon Secondary School, Uromi.
- (5.) Oriacle High School, Uromi. -
- (6) Our Lady of Lourds Girls Granimar School, Uromi.

The Venue was Esan Boys Model College, Uromi. At the end, Efandion Secondary School, Uromi emerged as the winner.

(c.) Igueben Local Government Area

Six Schools participated:

- (1.) Ebelle Secondary Commercial School, Ebelle.
- (2.) Igueben Grammar School, Igueben.
- (3.) Igueben College (Junior) Igueben
- (4.) Igueben Mixed Secondary School, Igueben.
- (5.) Wisdom Group of School, Iguebeni .
- (6.) Kings Community Group of Schools, Igueben.

The venue was Igueben Grammar School. At the end, Igueben College (Junior), Igueben emerged victorious.

(d.) Esan South East Local Government Area

Twelve Schools participated in this Local Government Areas.

- (1.) St. John BOSCOS, Ubiaja.
- (2.) Agadaga Secondary School, Ewollimi
- (3.) Edeikholo Secondary School, Ubiaja.
- (4.) Ewohimi Mixed Secondary school, Ewohimi.
- (5.) Obiaza Secondary School, Ubiaja.
- (6.) Okaigben Secondary School, Ewohimi.
- (7.) Okhuesan Secondary School, Okhuesan.
- (8.) Our Private secondary School, Ubiaja (9.)
- (9.) Sacred Heart Girls Model College, Ubiaja.
- (10.) St Andrew Catholic College, Emu
- (11.) St Matthias Secondary School, Ubiaja
- (12.) Unity Secondary School, Ubiaja

The venue was St. John BOSCOS College, Ubiaja. At the end, **St Andrews Catholic School, Emu** emerged as the winner in the Local government Area:

- (e.) **Esan west Local. Government Area**
Seven Schools participated in the competition.
- (1.) Eguare Secondary. School, Ekpoma.
 - (2.) Emaudo Secondary school, Ekpoma.
 - (3.) Palm International College, Iruekpen.
 - (4.) Mount Carmel, Secondary School, Ekpoma.
 - (5.) Uhiele Grammar School, Uhiele. Ekpoma.
 - (6.) Ujemen SecondarySchool, Ujemen — Ekpoma.
 - (7.) Ujoelen Grammar. School, Ekpoma.

The venue was Ujoelen grammar School, Ekpoina. At the end, **Eguare Secondary School, Ekpoma** emerged as the winner' in the Local Government Area.

(ii.) The second phase was the final one. The venue was Alli Hall, opposite Esan West Local Government Council Secretariat along Benin-Auchi express way, Ekpoma. The winners in each of the five Local Government Areas converged at Ekpoma on the 28th October, 2016, and competed.

At the end of the competition, Ewu grammar School, Ewu, emerged as the overall winner in Esanland.

Awards/ Prices

1. The five schools that emerged winners, in the Local Government Areas got thirty thousand naira (N30,000) only each and a Certificate of participation.
2. The overall winner got one thousand naira (N100,000) in addition to the first thirty thousand naira from the local government area and a certificate.
3. The first runners up got seventy-five thousand naira (N75,000) only in addition to the first thirty thousand naira and a certificate.
4. The second runners up got fifty thousand naira in addition to the first thirty thousand naira and a certificate.

Observations

It was observed that many of the Secondary schools in the Local Government Areas did not participate, owing to lack of money for at least, transportation to venues of the competition.

Comments by some stakeholders in the Education industry

The C.IEs in some of the Local Government Areas said there ought to be provision for schools by A E P, to at least take care of their transportation.

The process and organisation were lauded by all. Observers called for its sustenance.

Certificates of participation were issued to all schools that took part in the competition except eight schools from Esan South East Local Government Area that were yet to be issued with the certificates.

A.E. Ibhafidon