To: Unicode Technical Committee

From: Neil Patel and Mark Jamra (JamraPatel), Craig Cornelius (Google), Ibrahima Barry, Abdoulaye Barry

Subject: Replacement of Adlam Reference Font in Codesheet to Updated Design

Date: 19 April 2019

#### 1. Introduction

This document describes the changes that have been made to Adlam letterforms by Abdoulaye and Ibrahima Barry since Adlam was proposed ( $\underline{L2/13-191}$ ,  $\underline{L2/14-219}$ ) and included in Unicode 9.0. The changes are substantial enough to consider replacing the Unicode reference typeface.

During the 2 year period between the final proposal and the release of Unicode 9.0, an increase in literacy efforts brought new insights from the language community that exposed instances of ambiguity amongst letterforms and highlighted potential legibility concerns. These informed changes to letterforms that the Barrys and the language community hope to incorporate into the Unicode standard.

### 2. Recommendation

We recommend replacing the reference font in the Adlam Codesheet with either *Ebrima* or *Kigelia* to establish the correct reference for the design of Adlam typefaces going forward. This will ensure that future fonts are produced with the correct letterform model, minimizing the propogation of the out-of-date design. At this time, *Noto* is the only Unicode-compliant Adlam font broadly available and *Ebrima* and *Kigelia* are currently available in a limited fashion. The latter two fonts will be more broadly released in the coming year. As a result, it is a good time to replace the reference typeface in Unicode. Adlam users have been exposed to all iterations of the design through a variety mobile and web apps, which means there is already a familiarity with the ideal forms within the language community. Also, efforts to make form changes that have some relation to earlier historical models of Adlam create continuity amongst readers.

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# 3. Comparison of Unicode Glyphs to Proposed Glyphs and Other Fonts



PULAAR – Released 2007, Non-Unicode UNICODE – Released 2014 NOTO – *Noto Sans Adla*m, Released 2017 PROPOSED – *Kigelia*, Released 2018

Name Font		Capital	Small	Notes
(Profituriciation)		1E900	1E922	
	PULAAR	ט עלא	ט עלאא	
ALIF	NOTO	GGG G	ט טעט	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
(A)	UNICODE	व व व व व	טממט	design with Pulaar.
	PROPOSED	ט טעט	ט ממט	
		1E901	1E923	
	PULAAR	א ההה	א הרה	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
DAALI	NOTO	א ההה	거거거 거	design with Pulaar.
(DA)	UNICODE	7777	オオオオ	Removed ascenders in medial and final
	PROPOSED	7477	7777	forms to avoid diacritic collision.
		1E902	1E924	
	PULAAR	วาว ว	วาว ว	
LAAM	NOTO	222 2	ചാ ച	Vertical line in uppercase helps distinguish
(LA)	UNICODE	2223	5555	from lower case form
	PROPOSED	אבאבא	ם פבנ	
		1E903	1E925	
	PULAAR	999 9	999 9	
MIIM	NOTO	9999	333 3	Different form helps distinguish from
(MA)	UNICODE	9999	2222	lowercase form.
	PROPOSED	ඉඉඉ ඉ	9999	
		1E904	1E926	
	PULAAR	KHEHE HE	191916 16	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
BA	NOTO	121212 12	lelele le	design with Pulaar.
(BA)	UNICODE	सम्भ	افعلفاه	Removed ascenders in medial and final
	PROPOSED	PPR R	ළුළුළ ළ	forms to avoid diacritic collision.
		1E905	1E927	
	PULAAR	ww4 4	۳ ګسس	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
SINNYIIYHE	NOTO	ឃ្មាញ ឃ្ម	lululu lu	design with Pulaar.
(SA)	UNICODE	<u> </u>	لى لىلىلى لى	Final uppercase form is more consistent with
	PROPOSED	պպպ պ	ש עושוש	other positons.

		1E906	1E928	
	PULAAR	ם ממם	ם מממ	
PE	NOTO	DDD D	ם ממט	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
(PA)	UNICODE	ממממ	2222	design with Pulaar.
	PROPOSED	ם מעם	ם ממם	
		1E907	1E929	
	PULAAR	75 F	FF 5	
BHE	NOTO	RAR A	999 9	Initial and Medial uppercase forms changed
(BHA)	UNICODE	REER	ব্ৰহ্	to be more consistent across positons
	PROPOSED	ह्र हरह	ववव व	
		1E908	1E92A	
	PULAAR	ብዛቡ	FHF F	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
RA	NOTO	ANA A	ה ההה	design with Pulaar.
(RA)	UNICODE	<b>FFFF</b>	הההה	Removed ascenders in medial and final
	PROPOSED	HHF F	հ դեր	forms to avoid diacritic collision
		1E909	1E92B	
	PULAAR	RRR R	RRR R	
E	NOTO	223 B	arr a	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
(E)	UNICODE	8888	8888	design with Pulaar.
	PROPOSED	222	8 888	
		1E90A	1E92C	
	PULAAR	555 5	555 5	
FA	NOTO	RAA A	අ අයය	The proposed glyph is more consistent in
(FA)	UNICODE	ถภฦฤ	ត្តភូត	design with Pulaar.
	PROPOSED	ቬኒ	त तत्तत	
		1E90B	1E92D	
	PULAAR	لا للس	لا للس	
I	NOTO	UUU U	UUU U	Lowercase medial form gains ascender for
(1)	UNICODE	ишии	חחחח	improved legibility
	PROPOSED	UUU U	ט עעגט	
		1E90C	1E92E	
	PULAAR	2 200	2 200	Readers are accustomed to seeing both
0	NOTO	ccc c	0000	closed and open loops for small o. Closed
(O)	UNICODE	cccc	0000	loops are easier to write in medial and final
	PROPOSED	CCC C	ດດເ ເ	forms

		1E90D	1E92F	
	PULAAR	되면된 뭐	되면된 뭐	Horizontal line above helps distinguish from
DHA	NOTO	dbb b	ddd d	lowercase form.
(DHA)	UNICODE	ррир	dddd	Left ascender in small form improves
	PROPOSED	8 8 8 8	सप्तम म	relationship to uppercase
		1E90E	1E930	
	PULAAR	ححک ک	ححک ک	
YHE	NOTO	ککک ک	כככ כ	
(YHA)	UNICODE	ح حدح	ح ععد	
	PROPOSED	<u> </u>	כככ כ	
		1E90F	1E931	
	PULAAR	1111 1	ብብብ ብ	
WAW	NOTO	नम्म न	हाराम हा	
(WA)	UNICODE	กคคค	адаа	
	PROPOSED	FLFLF1	AAA A	
		1E910	1E932	
	PULAAR	2 යන	2 වයා	
NUN	NOTO	222 2	222 2	Lauranasa farmas simulified for uniting
(NA)	UNICODE	aaaa	aaaa	Lowercase forms simplified for writing
	PROPOSED	යයය ය	222 2	
		1E911	1E933	
	PULAAR	E ELLE	E ELLE	
KAF	NOTO	FLFLF1	अअअ अ	
(KA)	UNICODE	<b>元元元</b>	되되되되	
	PROPOSED	HAA A	T. T. T.	
		1E912	1E934	
	PULAAR	333 3	333 3	Consistent use of vertical line standardizes
YA	NOTO	333 3	333 3	positonal variants.
(YA)	UNICODE	31.31.3 3	ક્રીક્રીક ક	Ascenders in lowercase removed for consistency
	PROPOSED	31313131	333 3	and differentiation from uppercase
		1E913	1E935	
	PULAAR	ممم م	ک کمک	
U	NOTO	DDD D	01.01.01 01	Horizontal line above helps distinguish from
(U)	UNICODE	વા વા વા વા	वाचाचा व	lowercase form
	PROPOSED	O OLOLO	៨២២ ៤	

		1E914	1E936	
	PULAAR	የለየተው ው	ውን ነ	
JIIM	NOTO	ത്യത്ത	ന്നന് ന	Center connection and staggered height of
(JA)	UNICODE	ത്തയ	നമാച്ച	hoops disambiguated from Tu.
	PROPOSED	መመው ወ	በነነነነነ በ	
		1E915	1E937	
	PULAAR	ک کاللا	ة قاللا	
СНІ	NOTO	8888	තුතුතු තු	
(CHA)	UNICODE	2222	<u> </u>	
	PROPOSED	ए एत्र	<u>ዕ</u> ልል ዕ	
		1E916	1E938	
	PULAAR	555 5	ל לבב	
HA	NOTO	5555	5 666	
(HA)	UNICODE	5555	د د د د	
	PROPOSED	5 5	222.2	
		1E917	1E939	
	PULAAR	카카카 카	<b>光</b> 카	Forms more consistent across positon forms
QAAF	NOTO	외외외 외	او اواواو	for easier recognition
(QA)	UNICODE	919191	શ્રી અ	Removed ascenders in lowercase medial and
	PROPOSED	R PER	ଜ ଜନ୍ୟ	final forms avoid diacritic collision
		1E918	1E93A	
	PULAAR	<b>RRR R</b>	<b>227 2</b>	Horizontal line above uppercase helps
GA	NOTO	RRR R	<b>금</b> 금급 금	distinguish from lowercase form.
(GA)	UNICODE	7777	<b>ス</b> ススス	Removed ascenders in lowercase medial and
	PROPOSED	222 2	৪৪৪ ৪	final forms to avoid diacritic collision
		1E919	1E93B	
	PULAAR	rry y	rry f	
NYA	NOTO	8888	5.5.5	
(NYA)	UNICODE	8888	5.5.5 5	
	PROPOSED	ରିଧିଧି ଧି	გგგ გ	
		1E91A	1E93C	
	PULAAR	<u> </u>	222 2	
TU	NOTO	mmm m	ത മെത	
(TA)	UNICODE	mmm	m m m	
	PROPOSED	መመመ መ	ന്നം ന	

		1E91B	1E93D	
	PULAAR	አ ቴታኔ	ተደታ ተ	Extra vertical stroke helps distinguish from
NHA	NOTO	ममम म	ममम म	lowercase. But can be removed in heavy weights.
(NHA)	UNICODE	AAA A	RRR R	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
	PROPOSED	ይ ይይይ	<i>ዲ</i> ፈፈ ፈ	Pulaar orthography.
			1E93E	
	PULAAR	NA	NA	
VA	NOTO	A PAPA	AAA A	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(VA)	UNICODE	AAAA	аааа	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	R REFI	ብ ብብ	
		1E91D	1E93F	
	PULAAR	NA	NA	
KHA	NOTO	IEJEJE IE	HEHEHE HE	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(KHA)	UNICODE	वववव	व व व व	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	EEE E	ÆÆÆ Æ	
		1E91E	1E940	
	PULAAR	NA	NA	
GBE	NOTO	ররর র	ଗ୍ରସ ଗ	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(GBA)	UNICODE	<u> त त त</u> त	ह ह ह ह	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	RRR R	ુ લવલ	
		1E91F	1E941	
	PULAAR	NA 101010 10	NA	
ZAL	NOTO	MAN N	ann a	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(ZA)	UNICODE	8888	8888	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	ਯਯਯ ਯ	መመመ መ	
		1E920	1E942	
	PULAAR	NA	NA	
KPO	NOTO	व ववव	व ववव	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(KPA)	UNICODE	<u> </u>	0000	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	6666	9 9 9 9	
		1E921	1E943	
	PULAAR	NA	NA	
SHA	NOTO	HHH H	א אאא	Supplementary letters are not part of the std
(SHA)	UNICODE	שששש	שששש	Pulaar orthography.
	PROPOSED	ELLALALIA LA	илити п	

ALIF LENGTHENER UNICODE PROPOSED  TO UNICODE PROPOSED  TO UNICODE PROPOSED  TO			1E944	
LENGTHENER UNICODE PROPOSED TO Variants for better fitting		PULAAR	5	
TE945  VOWEL LENGTHENER  VOWEL LENGTHENER  VOWEL LENGTHENER  NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE946  Proposed has upper and lower case stylistic variants in Proposed  TE946  Proposed has upper and lower case stylistic variants. Uppercase mark is wider for better balance.  TE947  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE947  TE948  CONSONANT MODIFIER  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE94A  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED		NOTO	7	Proposed shows upper and lower case
TE945  VOWEL LENGTHENER  VOWEL LENGTHENER  VOWEL LENGTHENER  NOTO  UNICODE PROPOSED  TE946   TE946  TE946  TE947  TE947  TE947  TE948  TE948  TE948  TE948  TE948  TE948  TE948  TE949  TE949  TE944  NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE948  TE948  TE949  TE948	LENGTHENER	UNICODE	্	variants for better fitting
VOWEL LENGTHENER  NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED   1E946   TE946  TE946  TE946  TE947  TE947  TE948  T		PROPOSED		
VOWEL LENGTHENER  PROPOSED  TE946  PROPOSED  TE946  PROPOSED  PROPOSED  TE946  PROPOSED  PROPOSED  PROPOSED  TE947  Proposed has upper and lower case stylistic variants. Uppercase mark is wider for better balance.  TE947  TE948  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE948  CONSONANT MODIFIER  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE940  T				
VOWEL LENGTHENER UNICODE		PULAAR		
TE946  GEMINATION MARK  POULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE947  HAMZA  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE948  CONSONANT MODIFIER  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE949  TE948  GEMINATE CONSONANT MODIFIER  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE948  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE948  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE948  TE948  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE948  TE9	VOWEL	NOTO	ے	Showing the upper and lower case stylistic
GEMINATION NOTO - Proposed has upper and lower case stylistic variants. Uppercase mark is wider for better balance.    PULAAR	LENGTHENER	UNICODE	د	variants in Proposed
GEMINATION NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE947  HAMZA  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  PROPOSED  TE948  CONSONANT NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  GEMINATE CONSONANT MODIFIER  GEMINATE CONSONANT MODIFIER  GEMINATE CONSONANT MODIFIER  TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  TE949  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  NA NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED  TE949  NA NOTO UNICODE TE949  NA NOTO UNICODE TE949  PULAAR NOTO UNICODE TE94A		PROPOSED	্	
GEMINATION MARK  NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED - TO Proposed has upper and lower case stylistic variants. Uppercase mark is wider for better balance.  1E947  HAMZA PULAAR NOTO UNICODE PROPOSED TO TO UNICODE PROPOSED TO UNICODE PROPOSED TO UNICODE PROPOSED TO UNICODE TO UNICODE PROPOSED TO UNICODE			1E946	
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NUKTA  PULAAR  NOTO  UNICODE  .		UNICODE	₩	
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	PULAAR	٧	
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	UNICODE	کے	
	PROPOSED	٤	
		1E955	
	PULAAR	\$	
5	NOTO	₽	
3	UNICODE	<b>&amp;</b>	
	PROPOSED	٤	
		1E956	
	PULAAR	ĥ	
6	NOTO	ત	Form changed to disambiguate from Ha.
O	UNICODE	Ŋ	changes to sisamongaste from the
	PROPOSED	ଣ	

		1E957	
	PULAAR	8	
7	NOTO	8	
/	UNICODE	8	
	PROPOSED	Я	
		1E958	
	PULAAR	0	
8	NOTO	8	
	UNICODE	8	
	PROPOSED	8	
		1E959	
	PULAAR	9	
9	NOTO	?	
9	UNICODE	9	
	PROPOSED	?	
		1E95E	
	PULAAR	NA	
EXCLAMATION	NOTO	<u>ज</u>	Change in form makes it less letter-like and
MARK	UNICODE	र्ज	easier to distinguish as punctuation.
	PROPOSED	Ĭ	
		1E95F	
	PULAAR	NA	
QUESTION	NOTO	R	Change in form makes it less letter-like and
MARK	UNICODE	ব	easier to distinguish as punctuation.
	PROPOSED	ξ	

## 4. Usage of Supplementary Characters

The supplementary characters in Adlam are used for loan words and for proper nouns that come from neighboring ethnic groups. While these words are common, their use varies by region. Because the loan sounds are unique to these words and names the changes in the letterforms are not intinsically confusing because readers can identify the words by their context.

The UH or UH (sha) is used in Aisha HUHBB. It is a very popular name but also in words borrowed mostly from Arabic: COMBURBLEH (cheick).

The P or P(kpo) as in RARP (Kpelle) name of an ethnic group in the south of Guinea and Liberia. under (a local bar).

The m or N(zal) as in ดุยกุลดยลฟ์ (Nzerekore, town where the Barrys were born), หลือปป์ (zakat) นี้เปป์ (Zina).

The e or R(gbe) as in אלבששפט (hometown of a former president) and there are many other names and words in the coastal and Savannah regions with this sound. אמשואה א השמצושה (השושה השושה).

The ศ or म(va) as in ฉักผู (velo or bicycle), ุ ุ ุ ุ ุ ุ ุ ผู (avion), นั้นเมรัค (Vassy).

The ஈ or ஈ(kha) as in שששה மும்சும்ரி (laakhara or hereafter) and used a lot in names and words in the coastal regions. வக்கிர் மீட்டை.

	1E90	1E91	1E92	1E93	1E94	1E95
0	<b>5</b>	2	1E920	2 1E930	් 1E940	<b>)</b>
1	<b>y</b>	<b></b> 1E911	<b>y</b>	<b></b> 1E931	ි 1E941	1E951
2	<b>1</b> E902	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	 1E942	<b>ጎ</b>
3	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b> E913	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b> E933		<b>ال</b>
4	<b>L</b> E904	<b>ြ</b>	<b>L</b> 2	<b>ြ</b>	) 1E944	<b>上</b> 1E954
5	<b>y</b>	<b>ద</b>	<b>y</b>	<b>ద</b>	1E945	<b>&amp;</b> 1E955
6	<b>1</b> E906	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b> E926	<b>5</b>	1E946	<b>6</b>
7	ړ	와	<b>5</b>	와	1E947	ጸ
8	1E907	1E917	Б	1E937	୍ର	1E957
9	1E908	1E918 <b>5</b>	1E928	1E938	1E948	1E958
Α	1E909 <b>5</b>	1E919	1E929 <b>5</b>	1E939		1E959
В	1E90A	1E91A	1E92A	1E93A		
С	1E90B	1E91B	1E92B	1E93B		
D	1E90C	1E91C	1E92C	1E93C		
E	1E90D	1E91D	1E92D	1E93D		币
F	1E90E	1E91E	1E92E	1E93E		1E95E
	1E90F	1E91F	1E92F	1E93F		1E95F

	1E90	1E91	1E92	1E93	1E94	1E95
0	b 1E900	2 1E910	<u>D</u>	ے 1E930	<u>y</u>	() 1E960
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2	<u></u>	3	U 1E922	? 1E932	Q 1E942	ጎ 1E962
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8	L 1E908	¥ 1E918	2 1E928	<u>5</u>	• • 1E948	X 1E968
9	<b>B</b>	8	<b>5</b> 1E929	91 1E939	1E948 \(\frac{1}{2}\)  1E948	P 1E969
Α	η 1E90A	1E91A	1E92A	5 1893A	O 1E94A	
В	U 1E90B	Æ 1E91B	<b>3</b>	S 1E938	O 1E9IB	
С	C 1E90C	(A 1E910	6 1E92C	1E930		
D	b 1E900	1E91D	U 1E92D	£ 1E930		
E	<u>ک</u> 1E90E	<u>g</u>	C) 1E92E	A 1E93E		<b>ਜ਼</b>
F	F. 1E90F	<b>S</b>	d 1E92F	1E93F		<u></u>

Figure 1 – Comparison of Codesheets from the 2013 Adlam Unicode Proposal (left) and the 2014 Adlam Unicode Proposal (right)



Figure 2 – Adlam Appspot utility by Google allows users to type Adlam text with an on-screen keyboard and convert text from pre-Unicode fonts. This utility uses the Noto Sans Adlam and the three pre-Unicode fonts, Pulaar, Aissata and Fuuta. Dec. 2016

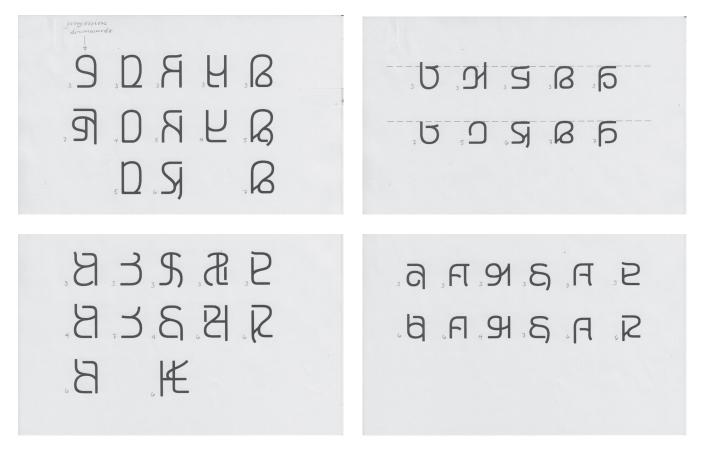


Figure 3 – Example of design iterations between 2017–2018. Variations are chronologically arranged top to bottom in each example.

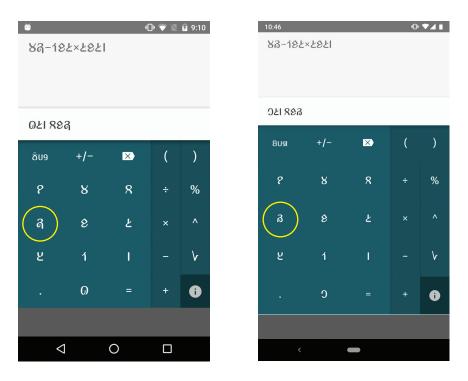


Figure 4 – Adlam Kiimirgal, calculator app. Early version (left) and newer version (right) showing updated numerals. Note: The reversal of the lower part of number six (circled) was an error that was fixed in Kigelia and is slated to be updated in Ebrima. June 2017

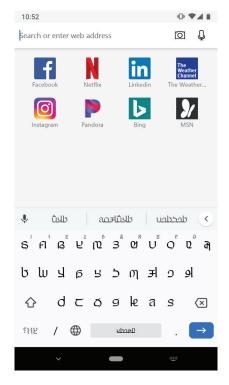


Figure 5 – Google Gboard for Adlam using Noto Sans Adlam. Dec 2017

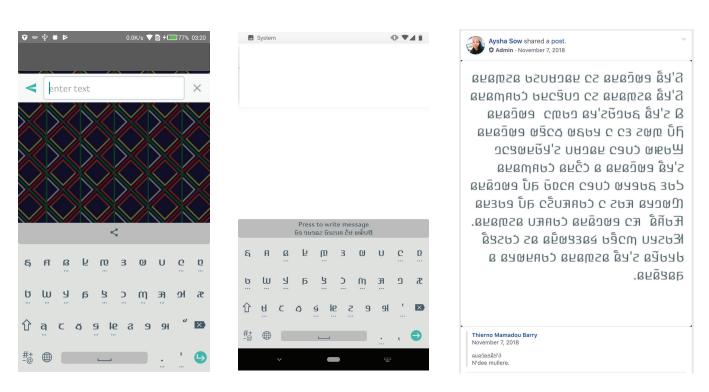
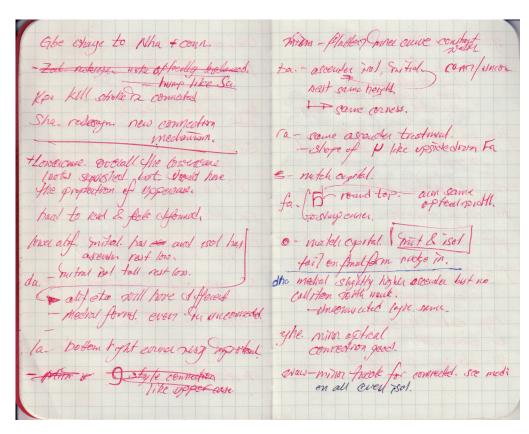


Figure 6 – Tappirgal Adlam, keyboard app. Early version (left) and newer version (center) showing letterforms that were updated while developing Kigelia. The image on the right shows Kigelia being used on Facebook using the text-to-image feature of Tappirgal. March 2018

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*Figure 7 – Sample pages of notes taken taken during the Spring 2018 session to finalize all letterforms.* 

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Figure 8 – Comparison of Ebrima to Kigelia. Ebrima and Kigelia are designed using the same letterform models. Being a system font, Ebrima only includes the unconnected variant of the letters. Note: Corrected form of number six (1E956) is shown in both fonts. Ebrima will be updated in Windows soon. May 2018

## **ADLaM and Osage keyboard support**

Building on the font support we announced recently, today we're introducing keyboard support for ADLaM and Osage. ADLaM script is used to write Pular/Fulfulde, the language of the Fulani people of West Africa. Osage script is used to write the Osage language spoken by the Osage Nation in Oklahoma.

Here is an example what you'd see on the touch keyboard when using ADLaM:



Figure 9 - Screenshot of the Windows Insider blog announcing Adlam support with Ebrima and accompanying keyboard. Feb 2019