

Kpanlogo Song Book
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Kpanlogo Dance-Drumming

A Brief Background

Kpanlogo originated in Accra, the capital city of Ghana and the traditional home of the Ga people. It is essentially an urban youth dance-drumming and a symbol of the commitment of a rapidly growing Ghanaian urban neighborhood youth in advocating their perspective in shaping the political vision of post colonial Africa.

Ga traditional state is among a political union of distinct traditional states known as the republic of Ghana. The union was created by the British government during the period of the historic Western European partitioning of Africa. It was originally called the Gold Coast and was renamed Ghana when it achieved self government on March 6, 1957. Ga land occupies the southern corner of the modern republic in an administrative region known as the Greater Accra Region.

Kpanlogo

GaDangme Youth Dance Drumming

Transcribed by
CK Ladzekpo

Basic Parts

Music score for Kpanlogo, GaDangme Youth Dance Drumming, in 4/4 time. The score includes parts for Bell (Basic), Bell 2 (impro), Bell 3 (Impro), Rattle, Low Support Drum, and Mid Support Drum. The lyrics are written below the drum parts.

Bell (Basic)

Bell 2 (impro)

Bell 3 (Impro)

Rattle

Low Support Drum

DU BUM KPA UM KPA KA DUM DU BUM

Mid Support Drum

UM KPA KA UM KPA KA UM DU BUM KPA KA

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Sewɔhu Nye Bɔ Hose

Lead: Sewɔhu nye bɔ hose

Group: Hose ye, hose ye, hose ye aye

Lead: Sewɔhu nye bɔ hose

Group: Hose ye, hose ye, hose ye aye

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, nye mɔ mi na wɔ he

Lead: Sewɔhu should sound hose (*collective patriotic voice*)

Group: Hose ye, hose ye, hose ye aye

Lead: Sewɔhu should sound hose (*collective patriotic voice*)

Group: Hose ye, hose ye, hose ye aye

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu, Sewɔhu

Lead: Sewɔhu

Group: Sewɔhu, should be supported and strengthen

Language Notes

Sewɔhu = A metaphoric statement symbolic of people dedicated to truth.
Sewɔhu translated freely means “Now you found the truth (you previously denied).”
Sewɔhu was borrowed from the Twi language of the Akan people of Ghana.

Hose = collective patriotic voice of people

bɔ = sound

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Sebedue

Lead: Sebedue, sebedue

Oma ye sebedua ‘ye, oma ye

Group: Oma ye

Lead: Sebedue, sebedue

Oma ye sebedua ‘ye, oma ye

Group: Oma ye

Sebedue, sebedue

Oma ye sebedua ‘ye, oma ye

Oma ye

Refrain

Lead: Alo wɔ ba ya zia ‘me

Alo wɔ ba ya zia ‘me

Group: Alo, alo, alo wɔ ba ya zia ‘me

Lead: Sebedue, sebedue (*collective spirit of loyalty and dedication*)

We invoke the spirit of sebedue, we invoke

Group: We invoke you

Lead: Sebedue, sebedue (*collective spirit of loyalty and dedication*)

We invoke the spirit of sebedue, we invoke

Group: We invoke you

Sebedue, sebedue

We invoke the spirit of sebedue, we invoke

We invoke you

Refrain

Lead: Or we should go beat them up

Or we should go beat them up

Group: Or, or, or we should go beat them up

Language Notes

Sebedue = A metaphoric statement invoking the spirit of loyalty and dedication among the Ga people of southern Ghana.

alo = or

wɔ = we

ba = should

ya = go, move

zi = beat

ame = people, person, them

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Wɔ Ya He

Lead: Wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya ye

Group: Wɔ ya ye he_____

Wɔ ya ye he_____ ye he

Ke wo be mi wɔ ba ya

Ke wo dze wɔ 'sa gba gbe bo ne wo gbo

Lead: We are on the move

Group: We are on the move

We are on the move

If you are not with us, we still move on

If you insult us, your own conscience will kill you

Language Notes

wɔ = us

ya = go, move on

dze = insult, curse

'sa = conscience

gbe = kill

bo = you

gbo = die

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo
(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Wɔ Ya He

Lead: Wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya wɔ ya ye

Group: Wɔ ya ye he_____

Wɔ ya ye he_____ ye he

Ke wo be mi wɔ ba ya

Ke wo dze wɔ 'sa gba gbe bo ne wo gbo

Lead: We are on the move

Group: We are on the move

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wɔ = us

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bo = you

gbo = die

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo
(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Anye Ye He

Lead: Anye yee he
Kpanlogo o
Anye ye bo ba 'ye tolo-bifie
Group: Anye yee
Kpanlogo o
Anye yee bo ba ye tolo-bifie

Lead: Anye ye he
Kpanlogo o
Anye come and eat a seasoned beef
Lead: Anye ye he
Kpanlogo o
Anye come and eat a seasoned beef

Language Notes _____

Anye = A name of a person.
ye = eat
tolo = beef

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Salamatu Gege

Lead: Salamatu gege, Salamatu gege Salamatu gege

Brɔda runaway

Group: Salamatu gege

Lead: Salamatu gege, Salamatu gege Salamatu gege

Brɔda run away

Group: Salamatu gege

Lead: Sista runaway

Group: Salamatu gege

lead: Brɔda runaway

Group: Salamatu gege

Lead: Ele le

Group: E e ele le

E e ele le

Salamatu gege

Lead: Gorgeous Salamatu, Gorgeous Salamatu, Gorgeous Salamatu

Brother run away

Group: Gorgeous Salamatu

Lead: Gorgeous Salamatu, Gorgeous Salamatu, Gorgeous Salamatu

Brother run away

Group: Gorgeous Salamatu

Lead: Sisters are running away from her

Group: Gorgeous Salamatu

Lead: Brothers are running away from her

Group: Gorgeous Salamatu

Lead: Ele le

Group: E e ele le

E e ele le

Gorgeous Salamatu

Salamatu is so gorgeous that she intimidates both men and women with her beauty.

Language Notes

Salamatu = A name of a girl.

gege = gorgeous, beautiful, pretty

brɔda = brother

sista = sisther

runaway = run away

Ele le = praise singing

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Everybody

Lead: Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Mofemo ke tsone aba

Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Group: Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Mofemo ke tsone aba

Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Lead: Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Group: Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Lead: Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Group: Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Mofemo ke tsone aba

Wɔ ya wɔ nu koko

Lead: Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Everybody should bring along their calabash

We are going to eat porridge

Lead: Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Everybody should bring along their calabash

We are going to eat porridge

Lead: We are going to eat porridge

Group: We are going to eat porridge

Lead: We are going to eat porridge

Group: We are going to eat porridge

Everybody, everybody

bring your clabash

bring your clabash

Everybody should bring along their calabash

We are going to eat porridge

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Wɔ Ya He

Lead: Wɔ ya ye e e e e

Sewɔhu sɔ yɔ ne

Group: Wɔ ya ye e e e e

Sewɔhu sɔ

Lead: We are on the move

In the spirit of Sewɔhu

Group: We are on the move

In the spirit of Sewɔhu

Language Notes

wɔ = us

ya = go, move on

Sewɔhu = A metaphoric statement symbolic of people dedicated to truth.

Sewɔhu translated freely means “Now you found the truth (you previously denied).”

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Yo Fe Yo

Lead:	Yo fe yo tele apawɔ	Lead:	All women carry the power
	Eya tse butɔ ne ba aye mpae le dzogba		Invite the priest to say a better prayer
Group:	A o ehim gbo o	Group:	Ah oh I am embarrassed
	Eya tse butɔ ne aye mpae le dzogba		Invite the priest to say a better prayer

Buying and selling of commodities in the traditional market place is reserved for women. Women dominate the traditional free market economy of Ghana. Women are always carrying on their head commodities to and from the

market place. The composer in humor reacts to these dynamic market activities of women as a curse on jobless men and calls a Devine intervention for equity.

Language Notes

yo	=	woman	dzogba	=	properly
fe	=	all	mpae	=	prayer
tele	=	carry			
apawɔ	=	traditional large bowl used in carrying commodities			
tse	=	call			
butɔ	=	priest			

African Percussion Ensemble Dance-Drumming of Kpanlogo

(Ga people of southern Ghana, West Africa)

Dzemi

Lead: Dze mi dze mi sumo dze mi
Shi awoo bo mo

Group: Gblogodo bo wo da gblogodo

Lead: Dze mi dze mi sumo dze mi
Shi awoo bo mo

Group: Gblogodo bo wo da gblogodo

Refrain

Lead: Sumo nyemi

Group: Ee... ya ye

Lead: Sumo nyemi

Group: Ee ya ye

Gblogodo bo wo da gblogodo

Lead: Chastise me, chastise me my love chastise me
You wouldn't go to jail

Group: Gblogodo, your voice, gblogodo

Lead: Chastise me, chastise me my love chastise me
You wouldn't go to jail

Group: Gblogodo, your voice, gblogodo

Refrain

Lead: My love

Group: Ee.. ya ye(*onomatopoetic but understood as I celebrate you*)

Lead: My love

Group: Ee.. ya ye(*onomatopoetic but understood as I celebrate you*)

Gblogodo, your mouth, gblogodo

This song brings each performance of Kpanlogo to an organised conclusion. Its text encourages the concept of non-violent demonstration and verbal exchange of ideas in implementing the urban youth agenda of advocating honesty and responsible leadership among the country's bureaucrats.

The phrase, "dze mi," translated literally, means "chastise me or curse me" and is a humorous metaphor advocating tolerance and non-violent debate of public policy issues.

"Gblogodo bo wo da gblogodo" is another metaphoric phrase which liken the human voice to that of the traditional drum as an effective weapon of advocating social change. Like the traditional drum, continue to speak up responsibly. You wouldn't be jailed for speaking up. You only go to jail when you become violent.

The text of the refrain is also a metaphoric phrase and provides the opportunity for the expression and celebration of a sense of solidarity (complete unity of purpose) and love for one another

Language Notes

Dze = insult, scorn, curse, chastise
mi = me
sumo = (my) love
awoo = send not
bo = you

mo = jail, prison
nyemi = family, kin
da = mouth
gblogodo = spoken imitation of drum syllable or language