

NAME OF THE ELEMENT: CRAFTSMANSHIP OF TRADITIONAL DRUMS – “KETE KODUM”

DOMAIN: TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

COMMUNITY: SURANO A (SEFWI BIBIANI AWINASO BEKWAI)

REGION: WESTERN NORTH REGION

DESCRIPTION: Craftsmanship of Traditional Drums - Kete Kodum is a vibrant Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) element practiced by the Atta Family in Surano A, located in Sefwi Bibiani Awinaso Bekwai. This musical percussion tradition involves the intricate process of crafting drums from wood logs, with a unique emphasis on the artistry of design and the significance of traditional symbols. The drum-making process begins with the careful selection of wood logs from the forest, which are then carved, shaped, and hollowed to create the drum's structure. The drum's membrane, traditionally made from elephant skin but now replaced with heifer skin, is meticulously prepared to ensure the desired sound quality. The drum's aesthetic appeal is enhanced through intricate designs created with a chisel, tuning nails, and patterns, featuring symbols like "Gye Nyame" and "owuo nt) ma da amasan ko mu."

Men and young boys are the primary practitioners involved in crafting these drums, employing various tools such as axes, chisels, and tuning sticks. Notably, women are not engaged in the craft, although they can learn the process. The community's involvement extends beyond the craftsmen, with roles for butchers, blacksmiths, tricycle riders, and chainsaw operators who contribute to different aspects of drum production. Language plays a crucial role, with both Sefwi and Twi being used in communication during the crafting process.

Tangible elements associated with this ICH element include specific tools like measuring tape, cutlasses, nails, axes, Pencil, C gauge, Glass paper, Hoe and various materials such as fabrics, design patterners, Polish, Pliers and wood logs. Additionally, intangible elements like music and dance, festivals, social gatherings, and traditional ceremonies are inseparable from the drum's significance. The drums are not only musical instruments but also serve practical purposes, such as finding lost individuals in communities and means of communication among chiefs and communities.

Access to this ICH element is governed by customary practices, including libation and appellations to the tree before cutting, ensuring respect for the natural materials and preventing unpleasant sounds in the finished drums. The transmission of this craft occurs through apprenticeship and family inheritance, preserving the knowledge within the community. Despite the absence of relevant organizations, threats to the tradition include potential environmental impacts on the availability of suitable wood and skin materials. Nonetheless, the community's commitment to apprenticeship and traditional practices

contributes to the ongoing viability of the Craftsmanship of Traditional Drums - Kete Kodum in Surano A.

While no specific organizations are involved in safeguarding this cultural heritage, the threats to its continuity lie in potential disruptions to the supply chain of raw materials and the increasing scarcity of traditional practices in the face of modernization. Despite these challenges, the Craftsmanship of Traditional Drums - Kete Kodum stands as an evidence to the community's commitment to preserving its cultural identity, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to cultural preservation, gender equality, and community well-being.

Consent: SURANO A (SEFWI BIBIANI AWINASO BEKWAI)

Submitted by: National Folklore Board