

NATIONAL FOLKLORE BOARD

TRADITIONAL SYMBOLS OF THE GA

GA SYMBOLS (GA SAMAI)



ABUI

(NEEDLE)

"Abui ni he edo shaa kpaa" - The hot needle scorches the thread.

A person may be justifiably angry but it pays to exercise self-control in order not to cause harm.



ADOWA FAI

(The crown of a deer)

Symbolizes the swiftness, agility and cunning nature of a deer



ALAKAA NYODMO

(God cannot be deceived)

You reap what you sow



ANOKWA

(TRUTH)

There is no fear in truth for truth will always prevail



**ASHINAO**

**(Beads)**

**A string of beads does not get lost when it falls in the presence of elders.**

There is no misunderstanding that cannot be settled peacefully.



**AKPOKPLONTO**

**(TORTOISE)** The symbol stands for patience and caution.

The wish of the tortoise is that there would never be the sound of a gun shot in the forest because when all animals take to flight, it would be left behind.



**ASPAATRE**

**(SANDALS)**

**Aspaatre kɛɛ elɛɛ shi elɛɛ fe gbe**

The sandal says it is wide but not wider than the road.

An admonition to be content with individual abilities and not to contend with the unrealistic

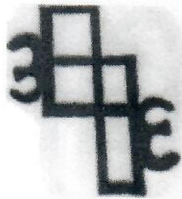


**ANTSWELE**

**(LADDER)** Symbol of fairness

A person is not sent up a ladder only to have it snatched away

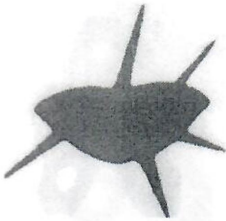
Do not betray the confidence that others put in you,



**AWEN BE DMO**

**(Laziness has no farm)**

Hard work pays and poverty accompanies laziness



**WAOBII**

**(FINGERS)**

The fingers of the hand are not equal; each has its strength and ability.

People are not the same. We all have our capabilities in society.



**ALAGBA TE**

**(Symbol of hope)**

**Alagba tɛ gbɛɔ looflɔ**

An unintended strike may kill a bird

A seemingly unpromising venture may yield good results



**HAATSO**

**Ashwɛɛ yɛ haatso shishi, nɔokɔ tso shishi ashWɛɛ yɛ**

No one plays under the candle wood tree but under the candle wood tree but under the swamp ebony tree



**ANTSWELE**



**AKROMADIO KPOO**

To speak plainly and frankly

**AKROMADIO**



**(TRAP) SYMBOL OF KNOWLEDGE**

**Nileb eduu gbe**

The one who knows does not get lost

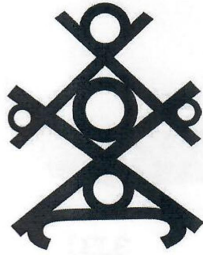
**AKPA**



**AWALE MARBLE STONE (SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE)**

The Awale marble says it will dwell among thorns and endure hardship to secure its future

**AWALE TE**



**ATSIKI**

**ATSIKI OYE BUA**

Atsiki is a strong kind of rope which is used for tough jobs

With the right tools and material, an excellent job is assured.



**HIDMEISEE**

**TSEN BATO HIDMEISEE**

(The beard came to meet the eyebrow)

SYMBOL OF RESPECT AND HONOUR



**NYODMO KOYOO**

**KEJI OTAO NI OSHE NYOMO LE WIEMO  
OTSOO KOYOO**

IF YOU WISH TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GOD SPEAK  
TO THE WIND

When a message is to be sent to a person of high  
respect or honour, it is done through a linguist or  
emissary