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By William Dumenya



Challenges in Ghana's hospitality industry, reason for establishing tourism chamber

THE hospitality and tourism sector is a critical pillar of Ghana's economy, generating employment, foreign exchange, and cultural exchange opportunities. Despite its potential, the industry continues to face structural and operational challenges. The creation of the Tourism Chamber, Ghana, is a timely intervention to unify stakeholders and provide sustainable solutions.

Fragmented Industry Structure is identified as one of the challenges bedevilling the industry. Operators work in isolation, limiting collective growth, negotiation power, and coordinated advocacy.

Financial Constraints is identified as another challenge. Limited access to affordable financing hampers expansion, technology adoption, and infrastructure improvement.

Insufficient Data and Research. Lack of reliable industry statistics

weakens strategic planning, investment decisions, and evidence-based policymaking.

Inconsistent Standards despite availability of standard operating procedures (SOP's). Service quality and safety standards vary widely, undermining Ghana's competitiveness as a destination.

Finally, vulnerability to Global Shocks. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the industry's fragility, causing closures, job losses, and slow recovery.

Justification for Establishment of TCG

Unified Voice and Advocacy. A central body to ensure stronger policy representation, collective bargaining, and collaboration with government and other stakeholders is required.

Access to Finance and Investment

Facilitation. Through partnerships with financial institutions and investors, the Chamber will create financing windows tailored for hospitality businesses. Research and Data Repository. The Chamber will generate and disseminate reliable data, enabling evidence-based decisions for operators, investors, and policymakers.

Standardization and Compliance. The TCG will assist in developing and promoting industry standards aimed at improving standards, competitiveness and customer satisfaction.

Crisis Management and Sustainability. Establishing an industry-wide support system will enhance resilience against global disruptions while promoting eco-friendly tourism practices.

In conclusion, the challenges facing Ghana's hospitality industry

require a unified, strategic response. The Tourism Chamber, Ghana, will serve as the industry's backbone—driving advocacy, innovation, and sustainable growth.

By aligning stakeholders under one umbrella, Ghana can strengthen its global tourism appeal, create more jobs, and contribute significantly to national development. There is therefore the need for tourism operators to join the Tourism Chamber, Ghana so that together we can build a stronger, more resilient industry that secures lasting benefits for operators, communities, and the nation at large.

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GRIPE drives change in Ghana's waste battle

THE Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises (GRIPE) is redefining sustainability leadership in Ghana through community engagement, strategic partnerships, and policy advocacy—at a time when plastic pollution dominates national discourse. Operating under the Association of Ghana Industries, GRIPE stands as a key force in Ghana's transition toward sustainable waste management, making measurable progress across multiple fronts.

Community Action

Since its launch in 2017, GRIPE has energized youth engagement through school campaigns that promote recycling and environmental stewardship—fostering early eco-conscious habits and positioning the next generation as catalysts for change.

GRIPE's second-life infrastructure projects show how plastic waste can be reimagined as a resource for social and economic development:

- A six-seater Aqua Privy toilet block at Domeabra M/A Junior High School in the Ashanti Region, built using over 2 tonnes of plastic waste, significantly improves sanitation for students.

- Two community buyback centres—Effiakuma (Takoradi) and Chorkor Chemuena (Accra)—support plastic recovery and empower local waste collectors.

- Donation of 100 eco-desks to schools in the Ga West District,

including Odumase, Medie, Otsirikomfo, Kwashiekuma Methodist, and Afuaman M/A Basic Schools, promoting inclusive education and second-life solutions.

These initiatives reflect GRIPE's commitment to turning waste into opportunity, enhancing both environmental and social outcomes.

Collaboration

GRIPE's coalition of private-sector partners continues to expand, now including Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Ghana Limited, Guinness Ghana Breweries PLC, Mohinani Group, Voltic (GH) Limited, FanMilk PLC, Unilever Ghana Limited, Accra Brewery PLC, Dow Chemical, Nestlé Ghana Limited, and most recently, GB Foods Ghana Limited. This growth reflects rising corporate interest in aligning with national sustainability goals and highlights GRIPE's role as a convening force across industries.

It is worth noting the brands like Sprite and Malta Guinness now use clear PET bottles to boost recyclability and support waste collectors—a growing trend in consumer goods. Mohinani Group has launched Ghana's first bottle-to-bottle PET recycling plant, a \$16M facility processing 15,000 tonnes annually to produce food-grade rPET, reinforcing Ghana's leadership in sustainable packaging.

GRIPE

- SDG 1 - No Poverty: Buyback centres and inclusive events create

income-generating opportunities for marginalized communities.

- SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Mohinani's facility exemplifies industrial investment in sustainable infrastructure.

- SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities: Second-life solutions improve urban resilience and community wellbeing.

- SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production: Packaging redesigns and ecosystem-wide recycling programs reduce environmental impact.

Local Action, Global Impact

As negotiations around the UN Global Plastic Treaty intensify, Ghana is emerging as a proactive voice in the global effort to curb plastic pollution. The treaty aims to establish legally binding measures to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives worldwide.

In alignment with this momentum, the Government of Ghana proposes to cut plastic consumption and drive eco-friendly innovation, including:

- A ban on Styrofoam takeaway containers, promoting compostable packaging.
- Import restrictions on plastic straws, encouraging bamboo and cassava-based alternatives.

At the forefront of these efforts is GRIPE, driving systemic change through technical expertise and

stakeholder engagement. The coalition has funded the development of Ghana's rPET standards and ensured alignment with global best practices.

Looking ahead, GRIPE is contributing to the technical groundwork for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and preparing for the launch of a Voluntary Producer Responsibility Organization (vPRO) by Q1 2026. This initiative will lay the foundation for a robust EPR system, enhancing accountability, transparency, and sustainability across Ghana's packaging value chain.

Conclusion

From classrooms to policy rooms, GRIPE is setting the standard for inclusive, scalable sustainability. Through locally grounded action and globally aligned advocacy, it transforms grassroots innovation into policy influence—empowering communities and informing global dialogue on circular economy and plastic pollution.

As Ghana advances its plastics strategy, GRIPE bridges innovation, community impact, and environmental leadership. From turning waste into infrastructure to shaping national policy, the coalition proves that collaboration drives change. Sustainability thrives not just through technology, but through trust, transparency, and shared purpose.

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