

GHANA TOURISM FEDERATION

(G H A T O F)

Apex Body of Private Sector Tourism Trade Associations in Ghana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accra, Ghana | June 2026

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

On the Introduction of Ghana's Electronic Visa (e-Visa) System

Hon. Minister, Distinguished Stakeholders, the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ghana Tourism Federation (GHATOF) — the apex body representing all private sector tourism trade associations in Ghana — I am honored to issue this statement on the Government's introduction of the Electronic Visa (e-Visa) system, a development of considerable significance to our industry and to the broader Ghanaian tourism economy.

I. Commendation of a Landmark Initiative

GHATOF warmly and unreservedly commends the Government of Ghana for the introduction of the e-Visa system. This is a bold, forward-looking, and highly commendable policy decision — one that reflects the Government's commitment to modernizing Ghana's travel infrastructure and positioning our nation as a premier destination of choice on the African continent and beyond.

The Federation takes this opportunity to extend its sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his leadership and personal commitment to this transformative initiative. The digitalization of Ghana's visa application process directly reduces bureaucratic friction, enhances the visitor experience, and opens our shores to a broader community of travelers, investors, and diaspora citizens.

The private sector tourism industry, which GHATOF proudly represents, has long advocated for the simplification of entry procedures. The e-Visa is a significant stride in that direction, and we are deeply encouraged by this development.

II. A Respectful Concern on Visa Pricing

It is in the same spirit of partnership, patriotism, and shared purpose that GHATOF respectfully draws the attention of the Hon. Minister and the Government to a concern that has been consistently raised by tourism operators, travel agents, inbound tour operators, and prospective visitors from across the world.

GHATOF has received substantial and growing feedback from international source markets — spanning Europe, North America, Asia, and the broader African continent — expressing concern that the current e-Visa pricing structure may present a barrier to the very growth we collectively seek to

stimulate. The Federation wishes to be candid: the feedback is not isolated, and the volume of concern warrants the Government's serious attention.

GHATOF wishes to affirm, most respectfully, that this concern is not directed at the concept of visa fees, but at the current fee quantum. We firmly believe that a recalibrated pricing model — one that is both commercially sound and designed to encourage high visitor volumes — will significantly amplify tourist arrivals and generate far greater long-term economic returns for Ghana.

III. A Constructive Call to Action

In light of the foregoing, GHATOF respectfully urges the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, to kindly review the current e-Visa fee structure, with particular consideration for the following principles:

- That pricing be designed to encourage high visitor volumes rather than to extract maximum per-visitor revenue;
- That differentiated fee tiers be considered, where appropriate, by visit purpose, duration, and visa category;
- That the multiplier effect of increased tourist arrivals on hospitality, aviation, transport, arts, culture, and retail sectors be central to the pricing philosophy.

GHATOF stands ready to engage constructively with all relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, offering data-driven insights and industry perspectives to assist in the pricing review. We are firm and committed partners of the Government in the collective mission to make Ghana a world-class tourism destination.

IV. Closing Remarks

GHATOF reiterates its full and enthusiastic support for the e-Visa initiative. We celebrate this milestone and recognize its transformative potential. Our advocacy for a pricing review is not a rejection of this commendable policy, but a contribution towards its full and optimal realization.

Ghana is endowed with exceptional natural, cultural, and historical assets. Our people are among the warmest and welcoming on earth. With the right enabling policies — of which the e-Visa is an excellent foundation — Ghana has every capacity to emerge as an undisputed tourism destination of distinction. We remain steadfast in working hand-in-hand with the Government and all stakeholders toward a thriving and globally competitive Ghanaian tourism economy.

Issued by:

SETH OCRAN

President, Ghana Tourism Federation (GHATOF)

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