



# THE DRIVE REPORT

MAY 2026

## Recent Updates:



### MASTERING THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

This month's webinar uncovered key principles necessary for effective and impactful communication



### DTI-A CONDUCTS OUTREACH VISITS TO SHS IN KUMASI

The Drive to Inspire-Africa team visited Kumasi to engage with students and make an impact



### 2026 COHORT 1 MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME COMES TO A CLOSE

This cohort brought together over 300 young Africans from 22 countries



# 2026 COHORT 1 MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME COMES TO A CLOSE

## MENTEE

### TESTIMONIAL

#### PETRONELLA MULENGA/ ZAMBIA

It was very inspiring, insightful and very engaging throughout. The sessions, lessons and keynote speakers were very knowledgeable and thus very helpful and rich information. DTIA Mentorship programme should continue inspiring and training and changing lives. It is a



The 2026 Cohort 1 Mentorship Programme which ran from March to May 2026 has come to a successful close. The programme brought together over 300 young Africans from 22 countries creating a vibrant community committed to learning, personal growth, leadership development, and meaningful connection.

Participants represented countries including Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Botswana, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, The Gambia, Namibia, Malawi, South Sudan, Togo, Libya, Finland, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Through structured cross-border mentorship engagements, mentees were paired with experienced professionals who provided guidance, support, and practical insights tailored to their personal and professional aspirations. practical guidance, reflective discussions, and real-world insights aimed at equipping them for growth in their respective fields.

The programme ended with a virtual closing ceremony held on 28th May 2026. During the event, the Founder of Drive to Inspire-Africa, Nana Adjoa Hackman, expressed her appreciation to the mentors whose dedication, expertise, and commitment made the programme a success. She also congratulated the mentees for their active participation and encouraged them to continue applying the lessons and insights gained throughout the mentorship journey.

The impact of the programme was reflected in the experiences shared by participants like Petronella M. Mulenga, a mentee from Zambia who expressed her gratitude to Drive to Inspire-Africa for providing the platform and acknowledged her mentor, Jefferson Ochieng Opiyo, for his unwavering support and guidance throughout the programme.

**Reflecting on her experience, she stated:**

***“My mentor has been very, very helpful, and I must really say thank you so much for the way I was paired because my mentor was able to guide me through and direct me in the pipeline of my dreams.”***

Beyond the structured sessions, the programme fostered meaningful relationships between mentors and mentees, creating a supportive environment where ideas were exchanged, challenges were addressed, and aspirations were nurtured. Participants were encouraged to think critically about their goals, develop actionable plans for achieving them, and build the confidence needed to pursue their ambitions.

As we conclude the 2026 Cohort 1 Mentorship Programme, we celebrate the achievements and growth of every mentee and recognize the invaluable contributions of our mentors. The success of this cohort reinforces the power of mentorship in unlocking potential, building confidence, and equipping young people with the tools they need to thrive.

While the programme has come to an end, the relationships, lessons, and inspiration gained throughout the journey will continue to have a lasting impact on participants as they move forward with greater clarity, purpose, and confidence in their future endeavors.



## DTI-A CONDUCTS OUTREACH VISITS TO SHS IN KUMASI

As part of our ongoing commitment to inspiring and empowering young people, we conducted outreach visits to Serwaa Nyarko Girls' Senior High School, Kumasi Technical Institute and Armed Forces Senior High Technical School both in the Ashanti Region this month. The visits provided a valuable opportunity to engage students through mentorship, career guidance, and motivational sessions designed to support their personal and academic development.

A key highlight of the outreach was an address by our Founder, Nana Adjoa Hackman, who encouraged students to embrace a growth mindset and recognise that their current circumstances do not define their future. Drawing on real-life experiences and practical lessons, she challenged students to believe in their potential, remain focused on their goals and take intentional steps toward building the future they envision for themselves. Her message emphasised resilience, perseverance, and the importance of maintaining a positive attitude in the face of challenges.

This month's visit also provided an opportunity for us to share words of encouragement and motivation with final year students as they sit for their final year exams. Students were reminded of the importance of discipline, consistency, and confidence during this phase of their academic journey. They were encouraged to approach their examinations with determination and to view them as an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired over the years.

Our volunteers from diverse professional backgrounds facilitated breakout sessions with the students. These interactive sessions created a platform for meaningful conversations around career exploration, higher education opportunities, and personal development. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with professionals from various industries, ask questions about different career paths, and gain insights into the academic and professional requirements associated with their fields of interest.

By sharing their experiences and lessons learned, our volunteers helped students gain a broader perspective on the opportunities available to them and the steps required to achieve their aspirations.

Throughout both visits, students demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity, and a strong desire to learn. Their active participation during discussions and question-and-answer sessions reflected a genuine interest in personal growth and future planning. The interactions reinforced the importance of creating spaces where young people can access mentorship, guidance, and inspiration from individuals who have successfully navigated similar journeys.



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## MASTERING THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

As part of our monthly learning and capacity-building series, this month's webinar focused on Public Speaking and Communication Mastery, featuring Mmatlali Lucia Motloung and expertly moderated by Elvis Crystal. The session brought together participants from diverse backgrounds who were eager to strengthen their communication skills and build confidence in public speaking.

The webinar focused on practical strategies for effective communication in both formal and informal settings. Participants were taken through key principles that are essential for anyone looking to become a more impactful and intentional speaker.

A central theme of the session was the importance of clarity and intentionality in communication. The speaker emphasised that effective communication begins with using clear language and avoiding slangs, especially in professional or formal environments. This ensures that messages are easily understood and taken seriously.

Participants were also encouraged to understand communication etiquette, highlighting the need to be mindful of tone, timing, and appropriateness in different contexts. Closely related to this was the importance of reading the room before speaking, a skill that helps speakers adapt their message based on audience mood, interest, and expectations.

Another key insight shared was the importance of researching your audience before any speaking engagement. Understanding who you are speaking to enables you to tailor your message in a way that resonates and creates impact.

The speaker further stressed the value of empathy in communication, reminding participants that effective speakers do not only focus on what they say but also on how their message makes others feel. Alongside empathy, participants were encouraged to speak with authority, projecting confidence and clarity in their delivery.

In today's digital age, the webinar also highlighted the importance of protecting one's digital reputation, noting that what we say and share online follows us and can influence personal and professional opportunities.

Finally, participants were inspired with a powerful reminder to believe in themselves, keep learning, and keep speaking, reinforcing the idea that "your voice is the mechanism that will change the world."



# NANA ADJOA HACKMAN HONOURED AS HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

About three years ago, Nana Adjoa Hackman, founded Drive to Inspire - Africa with a clear mission to inspire, empower, and equip young people across Africa and beyond. Since its inception, the organisation has grown steadily into a structured platform for mentorship, outreach, and youth development, reaching over 40,000 young people through various programmes and initiatives.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, this work was recognised when she was honoured as the Humanitarian of the Year at the Ghana Women of the Year Honours by Glitz Africa

This journey reflects a consistent commitment to building opportunities for young people to develop their potential, gain direction, and engage meaningfully with their personal and professional growth. Over the years, Drive to Inspire - Africa has expanded its impact through structured engagements, partnerships, and capacity-building efforts that continue to shape young lives across different communities.

The recognition highlights not only individual leadership but also the collective impact of the organisation's work and the communities it serves. It reflects the progress made in advancing a vision centered on empowerment, service, and sustainable impact.

Drive to Inspire - Africa continues to remain focused on its mission of creating opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and lead, building on the foundation established over the past three years.



## Own a DTI-A merch, support the education of a brilliant student

Supporting the education of young people across Africa has never been easier following the launch of DTI-A's Built for More campaign, which is aimed at raising funds to support our scholarship programme through the sale of souvenirs.

The campaign provides an accessible way for individuals and organisations to contribute directly to the educational journeys of young people, while also becoming part of a growing community committed to youth development. For more information or to support the campaign, please contact us at [info@drivetoinspireafrica.org](mailto:info@drivetoinspireafrica.org) or call +233535183274





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### **PARTNER**

Donate to DTI-A and help sponsor the education of talented young people, empowering them to reach their full potential.

### **DONATE**

Donate to DTI-A and help sponsor the education of talented young people, empowering them to reach their full potential.

**WE CAN DO SO MUCH TOGETHER...**

### **SPONSOR**

You can sponsor students' tertiary education or fund an outreach programme at your alma mater to inspire the next generation.

### **VOLUNTEER**

Join DTI-A as a volunteer mentor and help guide youth through outreach and mentorship programmes.

## THE DRIVE REPORT

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Ghana Education  
Service (GES)



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