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## Accra Airport Land Dispute Triggers Public Warning



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# Accra Airport Land Dispute Triggers Public Warning

By Dominick Andoh



**Daniel McKorley,**  
Executive Chairman, McDan Group

**Mrs. Yvonne Nana Afriyie Opere,**  
Managing Director of Ghana Airports  
Company Limited (GACL).

Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL) has issued a strong public warning cautioning prospective land buyers, developers and investors against engaging in unauthorized transactions involving disputed airport lands located on the Spintex Road enclave near the Accra International Airport.

In a public notice issued by management, GACL said it had become aware of ongoing attempts by some individuals and entities to allegedly offer portions of the contested land for sale despite the property remaining subject to ongoing litigation before the courts.

The company identified the land in question as an approximately 16-acre parcel situated adjacent to and opposite Action Chapel International on the Spintex Road corridor in Accra.

According to GACL, the land

had allegedly been offered for sale by Airport Logistics Limited and McDan Shipping Company Limited, both companies affiliated with the McDan Group.

GACL stated that the disputed lands remain the subject of legal proceedings and warned that no individual or entity currently possesses the lawful authority to dispose of, lease, transfer or otherwise transact any interest in the property until the judicial process is fully concluded.

The airport operator disclosed that the High Court (Land Division) in Accra in May 2025 delivered judgment in favour of GACL, granting the company the right to re-enter and repossess the disputed lands.

However, GACL noted that the McDan Group has subsequently filed an appeal challenging the ruling, meaning the matter remains pending before the Court of Appeal and therefore remains sub judice.

negotiations or payments pertaining to these lands,” the company said in the notice.

GACL further warned that any person or organization entering into transactions involving the parcels of land would do so entirely at their own risk.

The company added that it would not recognize any third-party interests created during the pendency of the litigation and reserved the right to take full legal action to protect its assets.

The warning comes amid growing commercial interest in airport-adjacent lands around the Accra International Airport, formerly known as Kotoka International Airport, particularly along the rapidly developing Spintex Road corridor, one of Accra’s prime commercial and logistics zones.

“The general public is hereby strictly advised and cautioned to desist from engaging in any land transactions,

SEE Notice Below:



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
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**RE: UNAUTHORISED LAND TRANSACTIONS ON SPINTEX ROAD**

The Management of Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL) wishes to draw the attention of the general public, prospective land purchasers, and real estate developers to ongoing unauthorized commercial activities regarding its lands **located on the Spintex Road, adjacent to and opposite Action Chapel International.**

It has come to the notice of GACL that the said land, which measures approximately 16 acres, **is allegedly being offered for sale** by Airport Logistics Limited and McDan Shipping Company Limited, which companies fall under the McDan Group of Companies. GACL categorically states that the said lands is a subject of litigation in the Court. For the avoidance of doubt, the High Court (Land Division), Accra, delivered judgment in favor of GACL on 6th May 2025, granting GACL the right to re-enter and to take possession of the said lands.

Although McDan Group has subsequently filed an appeal against this decision, which matter remains pending before the Court of Appeal for final determination, the status of the land remains **sub judice**. Consequently, no party has the lawful authority to dispose of, lease, or transfer any interest in the disputed lands while the judicial process is ongoing.

**THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY STRICTLY ADVISED AND CAUTIONED TO DESIST FROM ENGAGING IN ANY LAND TRANSACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, OR PAYMENTS PERTAINING TO THESE LANDS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO ENTERS INTO ANY TRANSACTION COVERING THESE PARCELS OF LAND DOES SO AT THEIR OWN RISK. GACL SHALL NOT RECOGNIZE ANY THIRD-PARTY INTERESTS CREATED DURING THE PENDENCY OF THIS LITIGATION AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE FULL LEGAL ACTION TO PROTECT ITS ASSETS.**

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# Airlink to launch first ever non-stop Cape Town-Zanzibar service.



South Africa-based Airlink will launch the first ever non-stop Cape Town-Zanzibar route in October 2026 with its brand new Embraer E195-

2 jets.

**E** Bookings are now open for flights on the route, which will operate weekly to and from the Indian Ocean island renowned for its spices, beaches, marine life, resorts and historical, UNESCO-listed Stone Town, which dates back hundreds of years to the island's historical role in the spice trade.

This will be Airlink's second route to the increasingly popular destination and follows the imminent start of its Johannesburg-Zanzibar services on 03 June 2026.

Customers currently holding Airlink tickets for Cape Town-Johannesburg-Zanzibar flights will be able to switch their bookings

to the non-stop direct flight at no extra charge, irrespective of the fare class booked provided it's in the same cabin. For bookings made on Airlink's website, customers should contact Airlink Reservations. Travel agents who wish to change their customers bookings should call the Airlink Contact Centre.

Airlink will operate its brand new, state-of-the-art Embraer E195-E2 flagship aircraft on the new Zanzibar service. They accommodate 124 passengers in a 2-class cabin configuration with only window and aisle seats – there are no middle seats on any Airlink flights.

“The introduction of our new flagship aircraft, the E195-E2, with its innovative business class and comfortable economy seats, enables Airlink to bring destinations such as Zanzibar within convenient non-stop reach of Cape Town, which is

an important source market for travel to the island. Cape Town is also our second hub and a popular connecting point for long-haul, regional and local customers travelling with Airlink or any of our partner airlines from around the world,” said de Villiers Engelbrecht, Airlink CEO.

Flights to the increasingly popular island, which will have a flying time of just over six hours, will operate on Saturdays from 03 October 2026

Zanzibar is on East Africa Time, i.e. one hour ahead of South Africa, or GMT+3.

This schedule is designed for leisure travellers to maximise their fun time on the island without disruptive middle-of-the-night or pre-dawn departures or arrivals.

Besides its increasing popularity as a tourist destination, Zanzibar's

flourishing economy – driven by agriculture, manufacturing, marine services as well as offshore oil and gas exploration – is also seeing it emerge as a magnet for investors and business travellers.

Zanzibar's adoption of an efficient new online electronic visa application system and the alternative option of obtaining visas on arrival, is also contributing to Zanzibar's popularity.

Onboard Airlink flights, customers will be treated to complimentary meals and refreshments.

Airlink's cabin configuration provides generous leg-room. All Airlink customers are also entitled to a 15kg sporting equipment allowance, in addition to 20kg free luggage allowance for discounted economy class tickets, and 30kg allocated for full-fare economy travellers.

# VFS Global's 'Phygital' Citizen Services Take Centre Stage at ID4Africa 2026

By David Kwakutse



VFS Global's "phygital" citizen service model was at the centre of discussions at the just-ended ID4Africa 2026 in Abidjan, as African governments accelerate investments in digital identity and citizen-centric public service delivery.

The company's hybrid "phygital" approach, which integrates digital platforms with physical and assisted service touchpoints, is emerging as a critical solution for African countries seeking to modernise identity management, migration, mobility, and residency services while ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.

Mr. Chetan Sharma, Head of Business Development-Africa at

VFS Global, said in an interview with AviationGhana.com that technology-driven citizen services remain central to the company's long-term strategy across Africa.

"Technology is at the core of our approach. VFS Global is a digitally led organisation, leveraging advanced solutions including AI and integrated digital platforms to optimise service delivery," Mr. Sharma said.

He explained that while digital transformation is accelerating globally, many public services across Africa still require a hybrid operational structure that combines online systems with physical support centres and human interaction.

"This is where 'phygital' models,

CiX Citizen Experience become critical by combining digital processes with physical and assisted touchpoints to ensure services are accessible, inclusive and user-friendly," he said.

According to Sharma, the model enables governments to deliver seamless end-to-end citizen journeys while maintaining security, efficiency and human support as integral components of public service delivery.

VFS Global currently operates more than 4,100 application centres in 168 countries and has processed over 542 million applications since 2001 on behalf of 71 client governments worldwide.

The company says Africa

represents a major long-term growth market as governments increasingly prioritise digital identity systems as foundations for economic growth, mobility, and social inclusion.

The growing focus on hybrid citizen service models reflects broader efforts by African governments to bridge digital access gaps while maintaining secure and scalable public service systems.

ID4Africa 2026 took place at the Parc des Expositions d'Abidjan, Ivory Coast from May 12-15, 2026.

# UG Professor Ranked Africa's No.1 Marketing Scholar Again in 2026 AD Scientific Index Rankings



When the 2026 AD Scientific Index rankings were released, one name once again stood above every other marketing scholar on the African continent: Professor Robert Ebo Hinson of the University of Ghana Business School.

For the fifth consecutive year, Professor Hinson has been ranked Africa's Number One Marketing Scholar, extending what many observers are increasingly describing as one of the most dominant intellectual runs in contemporary African business scholarship. The ranking also simultaneously places him as Ghana's leading Business and Management scholar, further reinforcing the scale of his academic influence.

In an era where universities across Africa are aggressively competing for global visibility, research prestige and international relevance, the consistency of Professor Hinson's dominance has become a story far bigger than one individual academic career. It has become a statement about the rise of African scholarship itself.

The AD Scientific Index rankings are built on measurable research indicators including citations,

H-index performance, publication productivity and global scholarly impact. Unlike popularity-driven recognitions, the rankings reward sustained intellectual contribution over time. In Professor Hinson's case, the numbers tell an extraordinary story: over 8,700 Google Scholar citations, an H-index above 50, more than 150 peer-reviewed journal publications and over 45 authored and edited books.

But beyond the metrics lies something even more significant: relevance.

Over the past two decades, Professor Hinson has become one of the most recognisable African voices in marketing, customer experience management, service excellence, digital transformation, sustainability communication and strategic branding. His scholarship has influenced not only university classrooms, but also banks, public institutions, regulators, consulting firms, governments and multinational corporations across the continent.

Academic colleagues say what distinguishes Professor Hinson is the breadth of his influence. Unlike scholars who remain confined within narrow academic silos, he has consistently operated at the intersection of theory and practice.

His career spans advertising, consulting, corporate strategy, executive education, governance advisory work and international keynote speaking — all while maintaining elite-level research productivity.

That unusual combination has made him one of Africa's most commercially relevant academics.

The 2026 rankings also underscore the growing intellectual visibility of Ghana within global business education. For years, African scholarship has often struggled for equal recognition within international academic systems dominated by Western institutions. Yet Professor Hinson's sustained performance suggests that African scholars are increasingly shaping global conversations from within Africa itself.

His publishing footprint reflects this continental ambition. Professor Hinson serves as lead editor of major international publishing series including the SCOPUS-indexed Palgrave Studies of Marketing in Emerging Economies and the Palgrave Studies in Technology and Innovation in Africa. These editorial roles have allowed him to help curate and amplify African intellectual voices in fields traditionally dominated by Western scholarship.

Observers also point to his unusually broad subject influence. His research portfolio spans digital marketing, financial services marketing, customer experience, e-business, sustainability communication, social media strategy, service innovation and public sector marketing. This multidisciplinary reach has helped make his scholarship relevant to both academia and industry.

Yet despite the continental recognition, those who know Professor Hinson closely often describe him as intensely productive rather than celebratory. Former students and colleagues repeatedly point to his relentless

work ethic, intellectual discipline and commitment to knowledge production.

That commitment is visible in the sheer volume of his work. Few African marketing scholars have managed to sustain such high levels of publication, editorial leadership, doctoral supervision, executive training and public engagement simultaneously over such a long period.

The result is that the 2026 AD Scientific Index Rankings no longer appear as an isolated recognition. Instead, they increasingly look like confirmation of a long-running pattern of influence.

For younger African academics, Professor Hinson's achievement also carries symbolic significance. It demonstrates that African scholars can build globally respected intellectual careers while remaining rooted on the continent. Rather than relocating permanently abroad to achieve recognition, Professor Hinson has largely built his influence from Ghana while maintaining international scholarly networks and collaborations. That model matters deeply for the future of African higher education.

At a time when universities are being challenged to produce research with practical relevance, public visibility and continental impact, Professor Hinson's career increasingly appears to embody all three. He is not simply a prolific scholar; he is a visible public intellectual, executive educator and practitioner whose ideas travel across classrooms, boardrooms and institutions alike.

And so, as the 2026 AD Scientific Index Rankings once again place him at the summit of African marketing scholarship, one conclusion becomes difficult to avoid: Professor Robert Ebo Hinson is no longer merely participating in African marketing scholarship. He is helping define its modern history.

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# When Volatility Is Good Politics

By Mohammad Reza Farzanegan



The US-Israeli war with Iran has revealed how instability can become a powerful political instrument. Leaders can exploit crises to maintain supporters' loyalty, even while imposing costs on them, and extract concessions from domestic and foreign adversaries through coercion and manufactured unpredictability. In a forthcoming paper, Canadian economist Ronald Wintrobe calls this dynamic "thugocracy": a form of rule grounded in coercion, intimidation, and unpredictability.

Over the past three months, the conflict has swung repeatedly—sometimes within hours—from escalation to de-escalation, with threats, strikes, sanctions, tolls, and ceasefire announcements following one another at breakneck speed. On April 7, for example, only hours after warning that "a whole civilization will die tonight," US President

Donald Trump abruptly shifted course and announced a ceasefire, claiming that America's military objectives had already been achieved.

Conventional frameworks for diplomacy and deterrence are poorly suited to a conflict of this kind. Here, Wintrobe's thugocracy concept is especially valuable because it highlights how coercion, instability, and political loyalty can interact in ways that redistribute the costs and benefits of conflict unevenly across society. Political and economic insiders have the financial resources and privileged information to benefit from instability, while all others absorb the costs. Convinced that the sacrifices imposed by war, sanctions, and economic coercion serve a larger purpose, the leader's supporters are willing to endure substantial hardship.

The Trump administration illustrates how war and profit

are becoming increasingly intertwined. In March, for example, the Financial Times reported that a broker associated with Secretary of "War" (Defense) Pete Hegseth attempted to acquire a defense-focused investment fund just before the start of the Iran war. While that allegation remains disputed, the broader dynamic is clear: those closest to power are uniquely positioned to anticipate shocks, hedge against them, and profit from the instability that follows. Prediction markets like Polymarket have pushed that logic even further, turning geopolitical escalation itself into a speculative asset.

The pattern extends beyond financial markets. Trump has repeatedly threatened to "take" Iran's oil and target key oil-export infrastructure, including facilities on Kharg Island, underscoring how deeply material interests are embedded in his strategic calculus.

Trade policy has likewise become an instrument of coercion, with Trump threatening to impose sweeping tariffs on countries that continue trading with Iran. Together with sanctions and military pressure, trade restrictions have become part of a unified bargaining strategy aimed not only at weakening Iran but also at maximizing US leverage over third countries.

Viewed against the backdrop of Iran's economy before the war began, the effects of these measures become much clearer. After decades of Western sanctions, many households were already grappling with falling living standards, while domestic industries struggled to stay afloat.

In a recent study, Nader Habibi of Brandeis University and I show that international sanctions

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were associated with a significant contraction of Iran's middle class between 2012 and 2019. This was not simply a temporary shock, but the result of sustained declines in real incomes, persistent inflation, and severe labor-market disruptions. As purchasing power eroded, many households experienced downward mobility.

The consequences were not limited to lost income. Studies have shown that sanctions have made

“Giffen goods,” Wintrobe argues that some policies can continue to command support even when they leave supporters materially worse off. That does not mean that the Iran war is popular among American voters, or that Iran's government enjoys majority support. Rather, the mechanism operates within particular constituencies. In the United States, it may work through partisan loyalty, narratives of strength, and selective information flows. In Iran, external attacks and sanctions can reinforce nationalist solidarity, even among citizens

Identity also plays a powerful role. When policies are framed as vital to national security, they can create a strong sense of collective purpose even as they impose severe economic costs. That is because public attitudes are shaped as much by status, identity, and fear of external threats as they are by material interests.

In times of war, the connection between policy choices and economic hardship becomes obscured, making alternative explanations easier to accept. The

the global economy, affecting households and firms far beyond the immediate conflict zone and reshaping political incentives worldwide.

The fragile ceasefire with Iran may pause the violence for now, but it does not alter the underlying incentives driving the conflict. As long as volatility enriches the powerful while ordinary people pay the price, escalation will remain politically useful. The real challenge, therefore, is to sever the link between geopolitical



essential drugs far more expensive and harder to obtain. For many patients, this meant missing or delaying treatment and heightened health risks. These economic and social pressures helped fuel the mass protests that swept Iran in early 2026.

The war is therefore devastating an economy already weakened by years of cumulative shocks. And because ordinary Iranian households bear most of these costs, external actors remain insulated from many of the immediate political costs of escalation.

This helps explain why coercive policies may retain support among a leader's core constituency despite imposing significant economic costs. Drawing on the concept of

who remain critical of the regime.

Information is central to this process, especially among Trump's core supporters. The issue is not formal censorship, but a fragmented and polarized media environment in which the costs of the Iran war can be reframed as the price of strength, deterrence, and national renewal. In such a setting, economic strain can more easily be attributed to Iran, foreign rivals, or domestic opponents rather than to the administration's own decisions. At the same time, Trump's rapid shift from threatening Iran with catastrophic destruction to announcing a ceasefire can be cast as tactical success, reinforcing the perception that the president is acting decisively and strategically.

result is a political equilibrium that perpetuates costly and destabilizing policies. The persistence of sufficient public support for such measures reflects the interplay between economic incentives, weak political accountability, restricted information, and identity politics, rather than simple voter irrationality.

Moreover, when war generates economic gains for certain groups, it can create powerful incentives to prolong it. While not every beneficiary seeks escalation, some actors are structurally positioned to profit from it.

The fallout does not stop at national borders. Rising prices, supply-chain disruptions, and heightened uncertainty ripple through

instability and private gain.

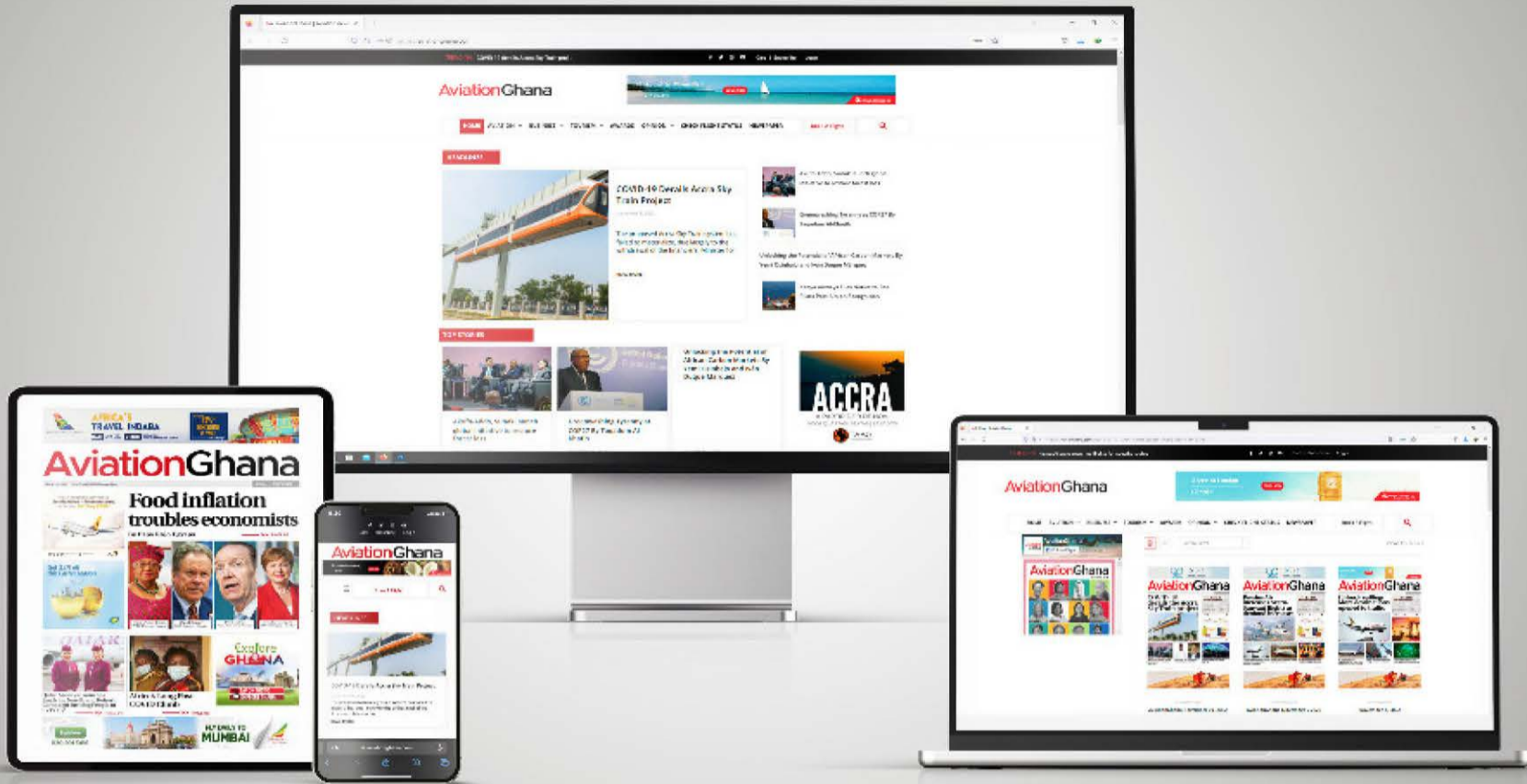
Mohammad Reza Farzanegan, Professor of the Economics of the Middle East at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies and the School of Business and Economics at Marburg University, is a visiting fellow at the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study and a research fellow at CESifo and the Economic Research Forum.

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