

August 02, 2019

# nurmara.

## News Worth Knowing

### Editor's note

Dear Federica, EBCAM has been trying to contact Mr Lanre Akinola with no success. Please get in touch via mail or, Zimbabwe's finance minister on Thursday warned that the country's [economy will contract in 2019](#), without providing a figure, having originally forecast 3.1% growth for the year.

The announcement is a fitting way to end what has been a disastrous year for the country since its first post-Mugabe presidential election on July 30, 2018.

His successor Emmerson Mnangagwa's promise of a 'new' Zimbabwe has fallen flat, despite reform efforts, amid the country's [worst economic crisis](#) in a decade. Inflation has soared, investment has plummeted, and the country is facing a [hunger crisis](#) amid shortages of basic goods.

The contrast with the optimism that accompanied last year's vote could not be more striking, but is the current state of affairs really surprising?

Under any circumstances recovering from the Mugabe years was going to be difficult. Considering that Mnangagwa - Mugabe's former deputy - came to power in a [pseudo military coup](#) to shore up the ruling ZANU-PF's power, expecting much change seems naive.

Yet that is exactly what much of the international press and many in the private sector had hoped, buying into the idea that Zimbabwe - once known for its strong infrastructure and human capital development - would bounce back quickly.

If the last twelve months are any indication, the country faces a long, hard road to recovery.

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## **Today's picks**

### **From the continent**

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**Ethiopia's prime minister Abiy Ahmed has said the country will continue to carry out internet blackouts - potentially indefinitely - to protect national security, following a deadly coup attempt in its northern Amhara region in June.** This comes amid rising ethnic tensions on the back of a radical reform drive that has upended the status quo in one of Africa's fastest growing economies. **More:** [Africanews](#)

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**Tanzania's central bank has said the country will rely more on domestic revenue and resources to finance its infrastructure needs to reduce its reliance on loans from Western donors.** The government plans to spend \$5.17bn on infrastructure in 2019/20. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

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### **The Daily Stat**

**14,000**

The number of days Equatorial Guinea's president Teodoro Obiang Nguema has been in power - 40 years. **More:** [Africanews](#)

### **The Global Perspective**

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**U.S. president Donald Trump on Thursday announced new 10% tariffs to be imposed on \$300bn worth of Chinese goods from September 1.** This could be bad news for sub-Saharan Africa, with the IMF warning in April that an escalation in the trade war could more than halve expected growth of 3.5% in the region. **More:** [CNN](#)

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**Libya has said it plans to close three so-called migrant detention centers following an attack by rebel groups on a center near the capital Tripoli in June that left more than 44 people dead.** The country continues to be a hub for people trying to reach Europe from Africa.

**More:** [BBC](#)

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