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News Worth Knowing

Daily Brief 23.07.2019

Kenyan finance minister [Henry Rotich was detained by authorities](#) on Monday, along with other officials at the treasury, on suspicion of corruption relating to two dam projects in the country. This is the first time a sitting minister has been arrested for financial misconduct in the East African country.

It's about time.

Kenya ranks 144th on Transparency International's corruption perception index, tied with Nigeria and Mauritania. In other words, graft is rampant.

At first glance Rotich's detention is the logical extension of a high profile anti-corruption drive under president Uhuru Kenyatta. Over the last 18 months there have been unprecedented arrests of current and former officials. The government has [even launched new banknotes](#) in a bid to curb graft.

On a continent where impunity is the rule when it comes to corruption, it looks like Kenya is setting the example.

Maybe.

While there have been numerous arrests, convictions are rare. Anti-corruption campaigns are also regularly used to go after political rivals, and there is speculation that Rotich's arrest could be part of a growing rift between president Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto.

The optimist will say it's better than nothing, no matter the shortcomings. With around \$50bn in illicit flows leaving Africa each year - more than total FDI to the continent in 2018 - it's not nearly enough.

Today's picks

From the continent

Nigeria has agreed a 'roadmap' with German engineering giant Siemens to increase the country's notoriously inadequate power supply from around 4,000MW produced today, to 11,000MW by 2023. It's the latest in a series of promises to increase access to electricity, which constitutes a major brake on growth in Africa's biggest economy. **More:** [Reuters](#)

Democratic Republic of Congo's health minister resigned on Monday, lashing out at the government's management of a major Ebola outbreak in the country's East that has left up to 1,700 people dead, less than a week after the World Health Organization declared it an international emergency. Oly Ilunga criticized direct interference by president Félix Tshisekedi, having been stripped of responsibility to manage the outbreak. **More:** [Al Jazeera](#)

The Daily Stat

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The amount of extra funding South Africa's government plans to commit to struggling state-owned power utility Eskom in the next two years. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

The Global Perspective

Mauritius has become an important offshore tax haven for companies doing business in Africa, according to a new 'leak' of documents published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. The findings will surprise few, with the island nation long touting itself as a low-tax gateway for the African market. **More:** [ICIJ](#)

Oil prices fell on Tuesday after assurances from the International Energy Agency that it would act quickly to ensure market supply amid tensions over Iran's seizure of a British tanker. Prices rose more than 1% on Monday due to concerns about potential disruption. **More:** [Reuters](#)
