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## News Worth Knowing

**Daily Brief 29.07.2019**

African Development Bank president Akinwumi Adesina on Saturday [called for the establishment](#) of a new investment bank dedicated to providing capital to young African entrepreneurs. He floated the idea at a high profile conference in the Nigerian capital Abuja, to endorsements from political and business leaders in attendance.

It makes sense.

Access to finance is one of the biggest barriers faced by would-be business owners. There's no exact figure on how much funding is falling short of entrepreneurs' needs, but an estimated SME financing gap of between [\\$140bn](#) - [\\$331bn](#) across Africa hints at the scale of the problem.

Anything that chips away at this mountain should be welcome, but Africa's entrepreneurs need a lot more than money.

Successful entrepreneurship requires basic preconditions like functioning infrastructure, human capital (ie. education and skills), and a meaningful investor base. Few African economies can legitimately claim to provide all, or any, of these.

Put differently, would-be entrepreneurs face the same constraints holding back any other business in Africa.

Yet the narrative around entrepreneurship tends to be blinkered, buying into the idea that young people, armed with mobile phones, can somehow ignore fundamental problems like underdeveloped infrastructure.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't invest more into young African entrepreneurs, but unless that coincides with meaningful economic development, don't get too excited.

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## Today's picks

### From the continent

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**A presidential advisory panel on proposed land reform in South Africa on Sunday delivered its final report, proposing expropriation without compensation only under specific circumstances.** The recommendation will likely ease concerns about the prospect of wholesale land seizures along the lines of Zimbabwe's chaotic farm repossessions under former president Robert Mugabe. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

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**Nigeria's presidency on Sunday said it plans to set up a committee to implement the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.** Africa's biggest economy recently signed up to the deal, aimed at driving regional integration, more than a year after it was launched due to concerns about its impact on local industry. **More:** [Reuters](#)

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### The Daily Stat

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The amount Zimbabwe's tourism minister Prisca Mupfumira has been accused of defrauding from the country's state pension fund. **More:** [Africanews](#)

### The Global Perspective

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**Ethiopia exported more than \$1.2bn worth of oil seeds and coffee, with revenue driven by the latter, in Ethiopia's fiscal year that ended on July 7.** This comes amid plans to increase annual coffee production from 600,000 tonnes - 1.8m tonnes over the next five years, in anticipation of growing demand from China. **More:** [Xinhua](#)

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**United Arab Emirates' Dana Gas has reportedly hired an adviser for the planned sale of its Egyptian assets, estimated to be worth more than \$500m.** The disposal is thought to be

part of a strategic shift to focus on its operations in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. **More:** [Reuters](#)

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