



The Daily Brief

Editor's Note, September 30, 2019

Five African countries - Togo, Nigeria, Djibouti, Kenya, and Zimbabwe - are among [the top-20 improvers](#) in making it easier to do business in the last year. This is according to a preview of the World Bank's annual Doing Business ranking, to be released on October 24.

Good performance on the ranking is coveted by countries - usually resulting in widespread, favourable media coverage - and used to promote their credentials as desirable investment destinations.

It's also a superficial indicator of a country's business environment, exclusively tracking the number of nominal reforms across 10 regulatory areas. It says little about implementation, the wider economic context, or the practicalities of actually doing business.

This can lead to some confusing results, like this year's top-20 improvers.

The inclusion of Nigeria and Zimbabwe is curious, as both have experienced a deterioration in their business environments in recent years. Zimbabwe in particular underlines how misleading Doing Business can be.

The country is in the midst of a spiralling [crisis threatening to unravel its economy](#), amid growing concerns about poor governance and corruption. If anything, the ease of doing business is rapidly getting worse.

The World Bank does concede that the ranking doesn't fully reflect an economy's attractiveness for business, but this doesn't stop the media, and its top performers, from hyping it up each year.

Today's Picks

From The Continent

Zambia's government is pushing ahead with contentious constitutional reforms to strengthen the powers of president Edgar Lungu. Bill 10, if passed by the country's parliament, extends the president's power to appoint judges and ministers, and control of monetary policy. **More:** [Eyewitness News](#)

Egyptian authorities have re-arrested a prominent dissident linked to protests that helped oust former president Hosni Mubarak in 2011, as part of a widespread crackdown on planned anti-government demonstrations. This follows unexpected protests against president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, which have raised concerns about stability in the

country. [More: Al Jazeera](#)

THE DAILY STAT

\$27m

The amount raised at auction from 25 super cars seized from Equatorial Guinea's vice president as part of a Swiss money-laundering investigation. [More: The National](#)

The Global Perspective

Sudan's newly appointed prime minister Abdalla Hamdok has said the country hopes to reach an agreement to be removed from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism "very soon" following talks last week. This is part of efforts by the country's transitional government to kick-start Sudan's stagnant economy. [More: Reuters](#)

Italian prosecutors are reportedly investigating the CEO of oil major Eni's CEO Claudio Descalzi as part of a wider probe into corruption allegations involving the company in the Republic of the Congo. The company is also embroiled in a high profile trial over alleged corruption in the purchase of an oil block in Nigeria in 2011. [More: Euronews](#)

nurmara.
News Worth Knowing

Nurmara is a specialized, Africa-focused digital media and information company.

[Find out more about our services >>](#)