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## News Worth Knowing

Daily Brief 05.07.2019

External debt issuances across sub-Saharan Africa for the first half of 2019 [fell by 65% compared to the same period last year](#), according to new figures from financial research firm Refinitiv. Governments have borrowed just over \$5bn, led by Eurobond issuances by Ghana and Kenya.

The continent is on course for the first drop in borrowing in years. In 2018 African countries raised \$25bn from Eurobonds alone, the third consecutive annual record.

Let's hope the drop is reflective of governments taking Africa's looming debt crisis more seriously. As more countries join the ranks of those at high risk of or in debt distress the need for better debt management and domestic revenue mobilisation are fast becoming a necessity.

Some countries are getting the message.

In March Côte d'Ivoire said it was ditching plans for a Eurobond issue, opting instead for cheaper international and regional loans to meet its financing needs. Meanwhile [Nigeria is looking to concessional loans](#) to reign in spiralling debt service costs, estimated at two thirds of government revenue.

The tone is a welcome change from the [general complacency](#) African governments have shown to date.

Whether the fall in borrowing represents a meaningful policy shift remains to be seen, but for the first time in years Africa's debt is heading in the right direction.

### Today's picks

### From the continent

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**South African finance minister Tito Mboweni and central bank governor Lesetja Kganyago on Thursday released a joint statement backing the latter's independence amid calls to expand its mandate beyond price stability.** Infighting over the issue within the ruling African National Congress is threatening to undermine already weak confidence in the

economy. **More:** [News24](#)

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**Somalia is severing diplomatic ties with Guinea over an official visit to the West African country by the leader of the semi-autonomous Somaliland region, which Mogadishu does not recognize.** This comes amid growing efforts by the breakaway region to gain full international recognition. **More:** [Africanews](#)

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### The Daily Stat

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The cost of a proposed new parliament building in Ghana. **More:** [BBC](#)

### The Global Perspective

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**Swiss prosecutors have reportedly dropped an investigation into asset manager Quantum Global Group over fraud allegations linked to its management of Angola's sovereign wealth fund.** This comes a month after its founder was released by Angolan authorities, without charge, having been detained on accusations he was involved in a \$1.5bn fraud attempt against the central bank. **More:** [Reuters](#)

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**Côte d'Ivoire on Thursday denied that it has signed a \$4bn deal with China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) to build houses in the West African country.** This comes a day after CRCC released a statement saying it had secured a contract for 50,000 homes from the government. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

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