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News Worth Knowing

Daily Brief 16.07.2019

Uganda plans to [invest \\$263m into a new vehicle assembly plant](#), with the first phase of construction having started in February. It hopes to start producing 5,000 vehicles annually by 2021, with an ambition to reach a capacity of 150,000.

The plan is a bid to tap into growing interest in Africa's automotive industry.

With an [estimated vehicle ownership rate](#) of 44 per 1,000 inhabitants - compared to a global average of 180 - the continent is the epitome of an untapped market. In Ethiopia, a country of 100m people, the estimate is two per 1,000.

This is changing.

Lured by the promise of unexplored markets and saturating sales elsewhere global [car giants are betting on the continent](#).

Volkswagen has recently opened new plants in Rwanda, Kenya, and Algeria, with plans to do so in Ghana and Nigeria. The company believes sub-Saharan Africa has the potential for 3-4m new car sales annually, from just 420,000 in 2017.

Others agree, with the likes of Nissan, Toyota, and Suzuki all announcing expansion plans.

This comes amid efforts to strengthen regulation aimed at clamping down on used car imports, which account for up to 85% of sales on the continent.

We'll see if Uganda's plan works out, but new cars could be a good bet.

Today's picks

From the continent

Zambia has sworn in deputy central bank governor Bwalya Ng'andu as the country's new finance minister, a day his predecessor Margaret Mwanakatwe was fired, without an

official reason from the government. Ng'andu is the third person to hold the job in as many years, amid concerns about mounting debt and policy direction in Africa's second-biggest copper producer. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

Zimbabwe's annual inflation rate hit 175.66% in June, up from 97.85% in May, according to new government data, raising fears of a return to hyperinflation a decade after the country ditched its currency to contain spiralling prices. The country has seen its economic fortunes go from bad to worse since the ousting of longtime president Robert Mugabe, despite repeated promises of a revival by his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa. **More:** [Al Jazeera](#)

The Daily Stat

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The value of a new agreement between Ethiopia and the UAE to support technology investments in the East African country. **More:** [CGTN](#)

The Global Perspective

Global hunger has risen for the third consecutive year according to new UN data, with an estimated 820m affected globally. Africa's sub regions have seen an alarming increase of almost 20%. **More:** [UN](#)

UK-based private equity firm Actis has acquired the management rights to two funds previously run by collapsed investment firm Abraaj - the Abraaj Private Equity Fund IV and Abraaj Africa Fund III. Abraaj had been a leading private equity investor on the continent before unravelling in 2018 following allegations it misused investor funds. **More:** [The National](#)
