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[^1]: @cambazanu16 They first joined in 2015 to oppose China's Belt and Road Initiative, the ambitious multi-billion dollar infrastructure project aimed at building a network of trade and transport routes in Eurasia and beyond. But they also see it as a challenge to other large-scale infrastructure projects including the \$8.3 billion Akwa-Ibom Water Offtake Pipeline. The project, aimed at boosting Nigeria's depleted water supply, runs from Lagos to Cross River in the state of Akwa Ibom, has been plagued by cost and delivery delays. China's mega-project, which is often compared to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, has attracted criticism because of its opaque finances and its large-scale use of Chinese labour. But there are also worries about the environmental impact of the project, which involves a multibillion-dollar dam, reservoirs and an oil pipeline. Last year, Enyinnaya Ighot, a regional secretary of Nigeria's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from Abia state, demanded "immediate termination" of the project. "We just want the Akwa Ibom Water Offtake Pipeline to stop because it is definitely unacceptable. It is an environmental disaster," Ighot said at the time. In January, Abia state governor Godwin Obaseki announced that he had suspended construction of the pipeline. The suspension followed a high court ruling that the Nigerian government had failed to provide the state with land and compensation. But Obaseki's government has also accused China of "illegal and unscrupulous" practices. Nigeria's first female president, Muhammadu Buhari, has become an outspoken critic of China's projects in his country. In April, the government filed a \$2 billion lawsuit against China, accusing it of helping to build the Akwa Ibom Water Offtake Pipeline without the necessary permission. Buhari's administration has also threatened to start a compensation lawsuit against the Chinese government and investors in the Akwa Ibom Water Offtake Pipeline. The government has also begun to enforce laws against Chinese activities, including the blocking of Chinese nationals from working in the country. **READ MORE:** Will Nigeria make the right choices to cement its regional and global presence? It did so in July, when the government barred five Chinese nationals from building a gas pipeline in the northern part of the country, citing " 2d92ce491b