

News Report

17 September 2019

Local

1. **DND chief unaware of telecom project in military camps**
The Philippine Star, 17 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 3

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was not aware of the signing of an agreement that would allow a China-backed telecommunications firm to build its communication facilities inside Philippine military camps, according to Malacañang.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Secretary Lorenzana would look into the agreement signed last Wednesday by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Dito Telecommunity, formerly Mislattel.

2. **Saudi attacks to affect Phl deeply - DFA**
The Philippine Star, 17 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 4

The recent drone attacks on a huge oil facility of state-owned Aramco in Saudi Arabia will affect the Philippines "deeply," according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. Economic managers, on the other hand, said it's still too early to tell how much the attacks would affect the local economy.

Korea

3. **Pampanga judge inhibits from Jee Ick-joo cases**
The Philippine Star, 17 September 2019, p. 12

Angeles City Regional Trial Court Branch 56 Judge Irin Zenaida Buan said she would not handle the cases filed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Col. Rafael Dumlao and the other police officers, who allegedly conspired to kidnap and kill Jee Ick-joo. Judge Buan was the one who approved bail for the alleged mastermind in the killing of the South Korean businessman.

Economic

4. **Chinese firms sign \$4.6 B worth of projects**
Manila Bulletin, 17 September 2019, p. B1

Chinese firms yesterday signed \$4.6 billion worth of investments and trade deals for the Philippines. These Chinese firms include Chinese steel company Panhua Group Co., Ltd., with its proposed \$3.5-billion integrated steel project. 9 large Chinese companies also signed agreements for their planned \$1.1 billion worth of projects in the country, mostly for trading activities of motor vehicles and strategic cooperation deals for food, cargo service and economic zone development.

5. **DOF expects more partnerships with China**
Manila Bulletin, 17 September 2019, p. B5

The Department of Finance (DOF) expects more partnerships with China now that bilateral ties between the two nations have improved under President Duterte's watch. Finance Secretary Dominguez assured Chinese investors that the Philippine government is committed in providing "rich field" of investment opportunities for Chinese investors.

6. **Chinese eye Mindanao rail**
Philippine Daily Inquirer, 17 September 2019, p. B1

At least four Chinese companies have already expressed interest to build an P82.9-billion segment of the Mindanao railway project (MRP), according to the Department of Transportation. These include state-owned Chinese firms China Railway International Group (CRIG) and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

7. **DOTr, SMC set to sign contract**

The Philippine Star, 17 September 2019, p. B5

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is set to sign tomorrow the concession agreement for the \$15-billion New Manila Int'l Airport project in Bulacan. SMC has yet to disclose when it intends to break ground for the project, but has previously expressed interest to start development as soon as possible once given a notice to proceed.