

News Report

23 September 2019

Local

1. **Locsin defends rejection of anti-drug war nations' loans**

The Philippine Star, 23 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 4

A "confidential" memorandum signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea last August said Malacañang has ordered all departments and other government agencies to suspend negotiations for loans and grants from countries that voted in favor of a United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said the Philippines refuses to take money from countries that support a United Nations resolution to monitor the government's drug war.

2. **82% of Pinoys satisfied with drug war - SWS**

The Philippine Star, 23 September 2019, p. 5

Eight in 10 Filipino adults remain satisfied with President Duterte's war on drugs, according to results of the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey. The June 2019 net satisfaction rating of the campaign against illegal drugs matched the "excellent" +70 in March 2019, the SWS said.

3. **500 US, PH paratroopers in joint airborne exercises**

Manila Bulletin, 23 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 8

About 500 paratroopers from the Philippine and United States armies participated in the first large-scale airborne operations exercise between the two countries at Basa Air Base, Pampanga on Sunday. Lt. Gen. Macairog Alberto, commanding general of the Philippine Army, said the one-day exercise was aimed at testing their capability to conduct airborne operations with their counterpart from the US.

Korea

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Economic

4. **Huge influx of investments in ICT sector seen**

The Philippine Star, 23 September 2019, p. B1, continued on p. B4

Investments in the country's ICT sector have been surging this year to levels never before seen, and such magnitude is expected to continue in the years to come, according to Information and Communications Technology Undersecretary for operations Eliseo Rio. He further said that this is the first time in history that the ICT sector became the top investment contributor in the country.

5. **American firms eye return to Clark**

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 23 September 2019, p. B2-1

Big American corporations are looking at investing in Philippine infrastructure projects, especially in the former US air base in Clark, to foster closer ties between Manila and Washington, according to the US-Asean Business Council.

6. **Resistance to Citira not data-driven - Salceda**

Business Mirror, 23 September 2019, p. A4

Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, the panel chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means and lead author of Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (Citira) bill said the resistance of Citira critics is not "numbers-based and data-based." This is in response to the statement of IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (Ibpap) President Rey E. Untal said the cost of doing operations in the country will rise "dramatically" if firms are forced to relinquish their fiscal incentives.