

News Report

26 September 2019

Local

1. **Duterte signs Judges-at-Large Act of 2019**

Manila Bulletin, 26 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 7

President Duterte has signed the Judges-at-Large Act of 2019 aimed at easing the overload of cases in trial courts. The new law creates 100 Regional Trial Judges-at-Large positions and 50 Municipal Trial Judges-at-Large positions nationwide to be assigned by the Supreme Court.

2. **Russia seeks 'profound long-term ventures with PH**

Manila Bulletin, 26 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 7

Russia announced on Wednesday their goal of establishing "profound and long-standing joint ventures" with the Philippines as they met with Filipino companies, particularly with San Miguel Corp. and Udenna Group, for infrastructure projects particularly airport, railways, shipbuilding, automobiles, power, pharmaceutical and medical equipment supplies, and agriculture products.

3. **Locsin: Chinese commitments to PH hardly materialized**

The Philippine Star, 26 September 2019, p. 2

Many of the commitments made by the Chinese government to the Philippines have yet to materialize, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. He further said the perception that China has been pouring support to Philippine economic and infrastructure development is mainly just on paper.

Korea

4. **South Korea to accredit new PH poultry facilities**

Manila Bulletin, 26 September 2019, p. B2

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said South Korea is set to conduct an onsite inspection and accreditation of new poultry manufacturing facilities in the Philippines, which hopefully will pave the way for the resumption of chicken exports from the Philippines to South Korea.

Following his meeting with some officials of the Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture Secretary William Dar said he is now hoping for the earliest dispatch of the on-site inspection team so the Philippines could finally export poultry products to South Korea again.

Economic

5. **ADB downgrades Phl growth forecast this year to 6%**

The Philippine Star, 26 September 2019, p. B1

In an update of its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2019, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) revised downward its 2019 growth forecast for the Philippines to six percent and 6.2 percent in 2020 from the original target of 6.4 percent for both years. This is due to the weaker global economy and domestic investment, but may recover next year as consumption holds up and supportive fiscal and monetary policies are implemented

6. **Puerto Princesa generates ₱27.55 B in investment pledges**

The Philippine Star, 26 September 2019, p. B6

The City of Puerto Princesa received P27.55 billion in investment pledges as it held its first investment forum, in line with its target of attracting more businesses into the city.

The investment pledges made are for various projects such as hotels, resorts, hospitals, agriculture farms, schools, residential developments, among others.