

News Report

30 September 2019

Local

1. **UN cannot interfere in state functions - Locsin**

The Philippine Star, 30 September 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 8

The United Nations should not interfere with any state in its functions of protecting its citizens and eliminating threats, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said, amid a UN resolution seeking a review of the way the Philippine government has carried out its campaign against illegal drugs.

2. **PH-China relations 'better than ever'**

Manila Bulletin, 30 September 2019, p. 2

The relations between the Philippines and China are "better than ever" amid enhanced cooperation on trade and investments, tourism and other fields, according to Presidential Communications Operations Secretary Martin Andanar. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Eduardo Malaya shared Andanar's sentiment, saying the two countries share "special bonds and partnerships" and could overcome any challenges.

Korea

3. **Broke Korean fakes own kidnapping**

Manila Bulletin, 30 September 2019, p. 12

A South Korean who got broke after deciding to leave his job as a tour guide in the Philippines to live with his Filipino girlfriend pretended to have been kidnapped to force his parents to send him money. The Korean Embassy sought for the Anti-Kidnapping Group's help on the alleged kidnapping of a Korean.

Col. Jonnel Estomo, director of the Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG), said they learned of Yoo Jin Won's modus when they conducted a social media search of the last photo that the victim posted on his account. During the surveillance, it was found out that Yoo has been staying with his girlfriend in Barangay Camanci Norte in Numancia town.

Economic

4. **DOF: Investors becoming less reliant on incentives**

The Philippine Star, 30 September 2019, p. B7

Foreign investors -are becoming increasingly less reliant on incentives as a deciding factor in putting up their businesses in the Philippines, according to Finance Undersecretary and chief economist Gil Beltran. This is in response to Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)'s claims that the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA) may drive away potential investors from the country.

He said that foreign direct investments are becoming "increasingly non-reliant on incentives," as shown by the decline in PEZA investment pledges over the previous years. Despite PEZA's opposition against the measure, Undersecretary Beltran said the DOF would not stop pushing for the fiscal incentive reform.

5. **Gov't negotiates new funding for projects affected by suspension of some loans**

The Philippine Star, 30 September 2019, p. B8

The government is in talks with other development partners which can potentially finance the projects affected by the suspension of loan negotiations with countries which supported the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s resolution to probe the Duterte administration's drug war, according to the Department of Finance.