

News Report

01 October 2019

Local

1. **African swine fever spreading quickly**

Manila Bulletin, 01 October 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 9

The deadly African swine fever (ASF) is spreading fast within the Philippines' top hog producing regions. The government has claimed that the virus had only resulted in the death and culling of at least 20,000 pigs so far.

2. **PH poised to buy 16 Russian choppers; Duterte all set for Moscow visit**

Manila Bulletin, 01 October 2019, p. 1, continued on p. 9

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is poised to buy 16 units of Mi-17 medium-lift Russian helicopters worth \$14.7 million each (approximately P779 million) or a total of US\$235 million (P12.5 billion) as part of its modernization program. This development is in time with President Duterte's visit to Russia in which he is set to meet with President Vladimir Putin.

Korea

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Economic

3. **9 PH-Russia business deals up for signing**

Manila Bulletin, 01 October 2019, p. B1

At least nine business deals between Filipino and Russian firms and government to government cooperation are set for signing during President Duterte's second state visit to Moscow this week. Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez revealed these deals are in the fields of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, joint ventures for manufactured goods, deals on lifestyle business systems, distributorship and supply of agricultural products.

4. **JFC told to back up CITIRA job loss claims**

The Philippine Star, 01 October 2019, p. B8

The Department of Finance (DOF) has challenged the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines to back their claims on the estimated job losses due to the Corporate Tax Income and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA).

In a statement, Finance Undersecretary Karl Kendrick Chua called on the JFC to "look more closely" at the proposed CITIRA bill, "instead of prematurely fretting over imagined job losses."

5. **Gov't reviews viability of infra plan**

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 01 October 2019, p. B1

The Duterte administration is reviewing the viability of its ambitious "Build, Build, Build" program, with the possibility of including in the pipeline emerging big-ticket projects to be rolled out by the private sector as the government wanted to start and finish as many infrastructure as possible before the President steps down in 2022.