



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION**



### **FDA assures Transparency in Contraceptives Review**

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) recently assured the public that the evaluation and reevaluation of contraceptives, including those covered by a Supreme Court order, “is aboveboard and transparent”. It also said that the results of the process “will be fully compliant with the standards set by the High Court”.

The assurance was issued by FDA Director-General Nela Charade Puno as the agency nears the completion of the review in line with the certification and recertification of some 50 contraceptives. Several of these contraceptives are covered by an SC order for recertification following a petition by a civic group.

The SC ordered the recertification of these contraceptives to obtain a conclusive finding of whether or not they can cause or induce abortion.

According to Puno, the pieces of evidence submitted by various groups either to support or oppose the approval of the contraceptives “have been strongly considered and exhaustively evaluated in this process”.

“We are grateful for the interest and the productive participation of these civic groups in the process of regulation of these health products,” Puno said. She added that the input given by these groups “have ensured that the results of the certification and recertification processes will have solid technical and scientific bases”.

The FDA urged groups interested in submitting input for the certification and recertification process to provide the agency with evidence last August 21 this year. The interested parties were given 10 days to submit their input and were informed of the process that the FDA will follow in the evaluation and review of the contraceptives concerned.

Puno also clarified that the FDA is strictly following the standards set by the Supreme Court as contained in the latter’s decision in a related court case.

“We will make sure that the results of the technical and scientific processes to evaluate and reevaluate these contraceptives will be made accessible to the public,” Puno said.

Puno said the “scientists who comprise the technical evaluation team of the FDA adhere to the highest professional standards and are committed to a transparent evaluation process”.

“These standards of excellence and transparency ensure that the interest of the public is protected,” Puno added.