ARTA summons FDA to explain complaints, pending applications

September 2, 2019 - The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) summoned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to explain the mounting complaints and the increasing number of pending applications following a surprise inspection and a meeting with stakeholders.

ARTA Director General Jeremiah Belgica, with Deputy Director General Ernesto V. Perez, called the FDA to the ARTA office today to present their reform plans to address issues regarding the voluminous complaints filed against them and the pending applications currently amounting to more than 14,000.

The meeting was called after DG Belgica conducted a surprise inspection at the FDA Office in Alabang two weeks ago, August 22. This was then followed by a meeting with affected stakeholders at the ARTA office just last week, Friday, August 30.

According to the initial reports from the visit, most of the applications awaiting decisions are made up of the Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) and the License to Operate (LTO) for initial applications and applications for automatic renewal. Further discussions between the two agencies showed that there is a significant backlog since 2015 with majority of the complaints coming from applicants for automatic renewal.

ARTA has already requested for a complete list of said pending applications to be reviewed and considered for automatic approval as indicated in R.A. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

DG Belgica hopes for a collaborative discussion to identify where ARTA could provide help in expediting the pending applications in FDA.

“I see the commitment of the FDA to solve the problems *na mukhang minana nila.* The passage of R.A. 11032 means that we can work hand-in-hand in finding solutions to serve the Filipino public better”, the ARTA head said.

FDA Deputy Director General Ronald R. De Veyra, together with FDA Directors, are confirmed present during the meeting.

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