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DOH appoints acting FDA Chief

Following the sacking of Nela Charade Puno as chief of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Department of Health has announced the appointment of DoH Undersecretary Rolando Enrique Domingo as FDA officer in charge effective last Thursday.

Domingo will assume the top post to ensure continuous and uninterrupted operation of the agency until such time that a new director general will be appointed by the President.

Puno's termination was announced by presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo on Thursday, citing "the President's continuing mandate to eradicate graft and corruption" as the grounds for her removal.

Puno thankfully accepted the termination of her services by President Duterte "without any ill feelings."

She, however, took exemption to the mention of so-called 'corruption allegations, saying, "I am clueless as to what these are."

"I have not been charged in any legal proceedings nor I am aware of any official investigations being undertaken in relation to corruption involving me. Of course if there will be any such allegations forthcoming, I am more than ready to face these in any forum," she said.

Prior to her appointment at the FDA in 2016, Puno was in the private sector. Despite being completely unfamiliar with political maneuverings in the bureaucracy, she said she had served as director general of the FDA for two years and 10 months "with complete honesty, diligence, dedication and loyalty."