

## MAP Statement on the Return to ECQ

July 30, 2021

The announcement of the return to ECQ was not entirely unexpected given the apparent spread of the Delta variant and the potential for a devastating surge similar to what Indonesia is experiencing.

While this will further hurt our struggling businesses, we expect the government to mitigate the damage by increasing vaccine supply and ensuring that vaccination programs continue even under ECQ, as this is really the solution to controlling the pandemic.

We further urge the government to relax rules to allow all sectors to avail of vaccination, specially those given by the LGUs which are not covered by Covax rules.

We also hope that thorough contact tracing will be done to identify and isolate all cases to stop the spread of the virus. Otherwise, we will likely continue to see surges in the future, and we cannot afford more lockdowns.