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Statement from  
MAP President  
Alfredo “Fred” E. Pascual  
on Alert Level 1

February 28, 2022

“The transition to Alert Level 1 is a welcome development, as it gives our economic recovery a significant boost. The removal of restrictions on the movement of people would assist enterprises in returning to pre-pandemic production and sales operations, particularly those where working from home is not possible or practical. With no more capacity constraints, service businesses, such as restaurants and retail shops, would regain lost patronage.

Of course, the required minimum health and safety protocols (vaccination, ventilation, social distancing, etc.) must be followed. Coordination with relevant sectors, such as transportation, is needed to avoid bottlenecks in mobility.

Allowing people to return to their offices and workplaces will benefit more than just the economy. It will also address mental health issues caused by prolonged isolation and a lack of regular face-to-face interactions. Alert Level 1 also indicates that we are prepared to live with the virus by treating it as endemic.

We note that the guidelines allow businesses to choose the best work arrangement for them, whether working from home, on-site, or a hybrid of the two. We must recognize the undeniable benefits of a hybrid setup in terms of cost savings, reduced need for home-office travel, and improved quality of life for people, such as working mothers. We believe that the hybrid work model is one of the pandemic’s positive lessons.

We hope that schools will follow suit and return to full face-to-face learning as our children’s education has suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic.”