WHEN ARE WE GOING BACK TO NORMAL?

by:
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With cases reaching its highest daily tally everyday in the Philippines, when are we really going back to normal? Are we really going back to normal or as they say this will be the New Normal? People are increasingly seeking answers to this topic, for others, it's driven by the horrors of a prolonged lockdown and an implicit worry that we might be facing one.

Philippine has the world's longest and most stringent lockdowns. On March 16, 2020, the first community quarantine was enforced on the island of Luzon, with its 53.3 million residents—including the capital's 12.8 million residents—being instructed to stay at home. Since then, community quarantine orders of different severity have been implemented across the Philippines' other islands.

Despite rising case numbers, the Philippines was the latest country in the region to implement a vaccination campaign, beginning in early March with Chinese-made Sinovac vaccines. The expansion of contact tracing and mass testing has also been hampered by a lack of investment in labs, equipment, and manpower. As a result, the government's primary tool in combating the pandemic is lockdowns. Without a doubt, the COVID pandemic has exposed structural imbalances in our global health infrastructure: the crisis has disproportionately affected impoverished populations and racial minorities in the industrialized world, as well as most people in the world's poorest countries.

'With God's help, maybe early first or second quarter of 2023,' says President Rodrigo Duterte when asked the date Philippines is going back to normal. In line with
this, Vice President Leni Robredo expressed her reservations over President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration that the Philippines could return to normal in the first or second quarter of 2023, questioning whether the country can wait that long given the suffering of its citizens.

When are we going back to normal? It is indeed a question that has no definite answer. The only answer is it will be as soon as we unite in fighting against this virus and the government will do its job to protect its citizens.

References: