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DOH: PH not yet in the 'endemic' state

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By Melva C. Gayta



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QUEZON CITY, (PIA) -- The Department of Health (DOH) said on Monday that the country is not yet in the 'endemic' state even if it has de-escalated to Alert Level 1.

The health department emphasized that the Alert Level System in the country is still in effect.

"If utilization of hospitals and medical facilities reach a critical level again, there will be a need to escalate specific areas to a higher Alert Level," DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in Malacañang Press Briefing on February 28.

Vergeire emphasized that the pandemic has not ended, and we are now transitioning to the new normal.

The health official cited that we have to continually prepare for severe and critical cases across all sectors of society.

"When numbers are already predictable and manageable and more people are vaccinated, this can balance off the level of transmission of COVID-19 and we can say that it is endemic already," Vergeire said.

An 'endemic state' does not mean that the virus is mild or is no longer there, Vergeire added.

"Hindi pa tapos ang pandemic. We have de-escalated but we are keeping our safeguards because the virus is still circulating among us," she stated. (MCG/PIA-IDPD)

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