



SUMMARY

Getting back to work means returning to a life that we are familiar with: the ability to gather as family and friends. To interact in communal activities and fellowship. To engage in commerce and activities that help us improve and increase our livelihood.

As a great number of us sit at the edge of our seat waiting for the “go” signal to return to work, we all recognize that the decision is based on the health and safety of the community by public health experts. As we standby, the Guam Chamber has put together a proposed outline for discussion to get the business community moving forward.

Topics of discussion involve identifying possible issues that would need to be resolved for a successful phase-in approach back to work which include:

- Essential services for employers and employees;
- Support for SMEs (Small - Medium Enterprises) that have been the hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- Reimagine what a “new normal” will be for businesses and the community at large as a result of our quarantine and island shutdown.

Additional discussion on what a phase-in approach looks like and over what period the phases will take place. We have provided a proposed matrix to start the discussion (*see attachment*).

Next, we, as a community, should not only engage with our regional partners and tourist markets to re-establish travel; we should look at lessons learned from other countries as we formulate our strategies moving forward to reduce the future risks of pandemics and develop procedures to insure a swifter economic restart should a potential shut-down occur again.

Lastly, the Government of Guam, along with the business community, will have to re-examine the path forward as government receivables have been scarce since the business shutdown on March 20th. As our island struggles with employees trying to catch up on their bills while out of work and regain employment, businesses try to get back on their feet and our island strives to restore our economy, the business community cannot shoulder the burden of additional tax or fee increases from this government. This recovery period will take longer. We encourage our elected leaders to utilize this time to seek out redundancies in government and reorganize and reduce the number of non-essential government workers to keep government expenses low to support the gradual rebuilding of our economy.