

Experts applaud smooth transition to remote as onsite work resumes



Doha: As offices nationwide returned to regular working hours today, industry experts and employees have commended the authorities for the seamless and efficient shift to remote work at the onset of the crisis, which has guaranteed uninterrupted operations across the board. Remote work systems played a critical role in maintaining business continuity across Qatar during the early days of the regional crisis, as government entities and private sector organisations swiftly activated contingency plans to ensure minimal disruption to operations.

Several ministries and leading companies had, within hours of initial developments, transitioned to remote working models, leveraging secure digital platforms, cloud-based systems, and

virtual communication tools. This rapid shift enabled employees to continue delivering essential services while adhering to precautionary measures. Industry experts told *The Peninsula* that Qatar's investments in digital transformation over recent years significantly strengthened its ability to respond effectively.

"High internet penetration, robust cybersecurity frameworks, and widespread adoption of enterprise technologies allowed organisations to operate seamlessly, even as physical attendance temporarily declined," said Felix Katterl, a leading Doha-based corporate executive

"Business continuity plans were activated immediately, and remote work systems proved highly effective," said Dr. Obiajulu Egbunike, a Doha-based innovation management expert. "Teams remained connected, workflows continued uninterrupted, and clients experienced no significant delays," he added.

Employees across various sectors echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the efficiency of virtual collaboration tools in maintaining coordination. Many noted that existing hybrid work policies made the transition smoother, as staff were already familiar with remote systems and protocols.

The early reliance on remote work also helped ease pressure on transport networks and public spaces, contributing to overall stability during the initial phase. With fewer commuters on the roads and public transport, essential services were able to function more efficiently.

As normalcy gradually returned, companies began phasing employees back into offices, adopting a measured approach to ensure both operational effectiveness and staff wellbeing. Human resource professionals emphasised that the experience underscored the importance of flexibility in modern workplaces.

“The ability to switch between remote and on-site work is no longer optional, it is a core component of organisational resilience,” Abdullah Moustafa, an HR manager, said.

The private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, also demonstrated adaptability by utilising digital tools to stay connected with customers and partners. E-commerce platforms, online customer service channels, and digital payment systems played a vital role in sustaining business activity. Meanwhile, employees expressed appreciation for the reassurance provided by their organisations during the transition period. Clear communication, regular updates, and access to digital resources helped reduce uncertainty and maintain morale.

“With everything moving online so quickly, it felt like a natural extension of how we already work,” said Nasreldin Salhin, an administrative staff member in one of Qatar’s leading semi-government organisations. “Returning to the office now feels smooth because there was no real disruption to begin with.”

Analysts say the episode has reinforced confidence in Qatar’s institutional preparedness and technological readiness. The

ability to maintain continuity without significant interruption reflects a broader strategy focused on resilience and innovation.

As offices reopen and routines normalise, many organisations are expected to retain elements of flexible working, recognising its value not only during emergencies but also as a driver of efficiency and employee satisfaction.

The seamless transition from remote work back to in-person operations highlights Qatar's capacity to navigate challenges while maintaining stability, an approach that continues to underpin confidence among residents, businesses, and the wider community.