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By: Danica Coto

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By: Job Manahan

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THE MANILA TIMES

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Climate change is an existential threat for all of us, but especially for maritime nations such as the Philippines and Singapore. As a small, low-lying island state, Singapore is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise. Although Singapore accounts for only about 0.1 percent of global emissions, we have consistently pursued sustainable development to balance economic development with environmental protection and social inclusion.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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Transform Marawi into a 'green city': CCC

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday said the rehabilitation of Marawi City must include efforts to transform it into a "green city", and not only a center for trade and business opportunities.

POLITIKO

Climate body wants Marawi to be transformed into green city

By: Prince Golez

The government should incorporate aspects of the environment and climate change in the rehabilitation of Marawi City, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said Thursday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABC NEWS

[UAE's al-Jaber urges more financing to help Caribbean and other regions fight climate change](#)

By: Danica Coto

The head of this year's U.N. global climate summit urged more availability of funds to fight climate change in the Caribbean during a regional meeting Thursday in Barbados.

Sultan al-Jaber, the United Arab Emirates' minister of industry, noted that high costs have prevented island nations from quickly adopting renewable energy as they face what he said was some of the world's harshest climate impacts.

"The peoples of the Caribbean have been on the front lines of climate change for longer than most," he said. "Your experience represents an early warning system for the rest of the world."

Al-Jaber spoke to leaders from a 15-member trade bloc known as Caricom during an event broadcast online, saying that closing the climate finance gap is a priority ahead of the COP28 summit in Dubai in December.

Al-Jaber spoke the same day that the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration increased its prediction for the Atlantic hurricane season from near-normal to above-normal given record sea surface temperatures. Some 14 to 21 named storms are now expected, with two to five major hurricanes.

Five tropical storms already have formed this year, marking an unusually busy start to the season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

"This region knows only too well the human and economic costs of too little finance for climate adaptation and resilience," al-Jaber said of the Caribbean.

He credited Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley for creating a plan known as the Bridgetown Initiative, which would make it easier for developing nations to fight global warming and postpone debt payments when disasters occur.

Supporters have said the plan could free up \$1 trillion in climate financing.

On Wednesday, Mottley announced that her administration would create a legacy fund to help Barbados fight climate change.

ABS CBN

Marcos Jr recognizes PH's 'slow' transition to renewable energy

By: Job Manahan

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday said he recognized the country's slow transition to renewable energy, noting the importance to build infrastructure to support it.

"We all have great hopes that the transition to renewables will be easy or simple. It turns out that is not going to be the case and we have to be realistic in this regard," Marcos said during his message at the US-ASEAN Business Council.

"We recognize the rule that we have set for ourselves that is the slow transition and it is slow," he added.

The President has been repeatedly pushing to improve the share of renewables in the country's energy mix. He told leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) last year that half of the Philippines' power would be sourced through renewable power plants by 2040.

Under the Philippines' renewable energy plan — a requirement under the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 — the country targets to increase to 35 percent of the share of renewable energy in the power mix by 2030.

This is where, he said, partnerships with the United States and the private sector would come in to establish important infrastructure for the country's shift to renewable energy.

"The rule we [applied] for ourself is first of all is that we must be able to provide sufficient power for the development of our industry, sufficient power so that we can expand the economy, and it must be accompanied by a continuing effort to move our power sources from the traditional fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy," he said.

Marcos Jr. had said his administration will prioritize the use of renewable energy sources to cushion the impacts of climate change in the Philippines.

In order to alleviate the effects of climate change, he said there is a need to prioritize the use of renewable energy sources.

CNN

Flood control projects 'on track' for completion – DPWH

Most of the government's flood control projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) are on course to meet the target timeline, the agency's chief said, even as lawmakers plan to probe the widespread flooding in Luzon.

"Let me put it this way, I can only speak for what we started. Actually, we have just been in this administration for one year and the projects that we're implementing for flood control projects under the 2023 budget are ongoing," DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan said Tuesday.

This was Bonoan's statement when sought for comments after some senators questioned the severe flooding experienced in some Luzon provinces despite the DPWH's multibillion-peso budget.

The DPWH chief, however, said that about ₱180 billion in funds for flood projects are spread out across the Philippines.

The official acknowledged that there are some "small" contracts that have faced delays, but stressed that "most of them are ongoing."

"You can't avoid issues on the right-of-way, acquisition of areas. Some of the weather disturbances. These are natural you can cope up within the next two years," Bonoan said.

He stressed that the projects were "on track."

"We have two years to implement these projects," he said.

The Senate public works committee is set to discuss the flooding problem on Wednesday, August 9.

MANILA BULLETIN

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I am writing this piece while Typhoon Falcon is ravaging the Philippines just days after Typhoon Egay wreaked havoc in the country. Based on the most recent estimates, these back-to-back typhoons brought about P1.94 billion in damages to agriculture and around P7 billion to infrastructure, leaving thousands of families homeless.

In the middle of a climate catastrophe, young people are boggled with the question of what they should be doing, especially in a vulnerable country like the Philippines, where climate change-induced disasters like floods and droughts have become the norm.

Despite these paralyzing scenarios, many young people's response is to find a way to change this. Young people, with their innate determination and willingness to help, would want to paint a new picture — different from what they are currently seeing. They are also equipped with creativity and skills to come up with innovative solutions to problems they are experiencing. With the right opportunities, they could fully become the changemakers their communities need.

Still, that question remains, "What should I do now?" Yes, we have the skills and talent we can use and are fueled by our passion and determination. But how can these be translated into concrete solutions? Especially now that we're either still finishing our education (for children and teens) or stuck in our day job (for young adults).

In our Project Niche, we developed a simple way of helping budding climate advocates be part of the climate space. It only has four steps: (1) Find your place, (2) Claim your place, (3) Own your place, and (4) Inspire others to do the same.

Find your place. For newcomers in this space – first of all, welcome. Navigating a problem as complex as climate change is overwhelming. I know because I also felt overwhelmed when I started. But the good news is that you have a guide – your interests, passions, hobbies, and chosen careers can be your gateway to climate action.

If you like arts, then participate in climartivism. If you're a teacher, then integrate climate change into your lectures. You don't need to be an environmental engineer or a meteorologist to be part of the solution. You just have to be you. And if you feel like you

don't know much about climate change, you can always read articles, attend webinars, or talk to other people who are part of the climate space.

Claim your place. Once you know where you belong, claim that place by doing a small project that impacts you and the people around you. You don't need to do big things immediately.

As cliché as it might be, every journey starts with a single step. By doing small projects, you can explore different climate solutions in your chosen area of interest. This also allows you to learn more skills and pick up valuable lessons to use as you move forward.

Own your place. If you think you're ready to scale up, then go! But you don't need to do this alone. There are a lot of changemakers like you who want to spark solutions. You can also reach out to other organizations and agencies for additional support and funding to help you implement your projects. For sure, they would be more than happy to be your allies in this fight.

Inspire others to do the same. Once you've done all these and reached certain milestones in your climate journey, share your stories with others. Tell them how you've started in the climate fight and become one of the fiercest climate warriors the world has seen.

Remember how you were inspired by the stories of other changemakers? It's your time to inspire a new cohort of budding climate advocates. We're excited to hear your story.

If you're still reading this piece, thank you, and I guess that means you're really interested in joining this fight. I know you might also be afraid, terrified, and devastated; that's fine. As Anouchka Grose penned in her book "Guide to Eco-Anxiety," "...if you're doing whatever you can, but finding it's somewhat more confusing and complicated than that, you're probably exactly the kind of person the planet needs right now. And if you're worried about the future, you're not alone."

This is the most significant challenge the world has ever seen. This is the fight for our life. We're glad to have you on our side. Now, let's win this!

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[House pushes for climate proofing reforms](#)

By: Filane Mikee Cervantes

Two measures that would incorporate climate proofing in building codes took a major step toward becoming law on Wednesday after lawmakers at the House of Representatives voted to approve the bills on final reading.

During the plenary session, a total of 266 lawmakers voted to approve House Bill (HB) 8500, which contains the country's proposed new National Building Code or law. No lawmaker voted against the bill or abstained from voting.

House Bill 8500, or the proposed "New Philippine Building Act," aims to protect the public against multiple hazards like fire, weather disturbances and earthquake.

Speaker Martin Romualdez said the present building code, embodied in Presidential Decree 1096, was enacted on Feb. 19, 1977, or more than 46 years ago by the late former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

"Many developments in building standards and technologies, climate change, and disaster risk reduction and management have since taken place. It's time that we update our law under the second Marcos administration," he said.

The proposed law would set "minimum standards for the regulation of location, planning, design, construction, occupancy, maintenance, and demolition of buildings."

"A single life or structure we can save is more than worth the time, money, and effort we have put in keeping our building law abreast with best practices and regulations," he added.

The bill would allow local government units (LGUs) to pass their own building ordinances, provided these are consistent with the proposed new building law.

It mandates that the construction of structures that straddle LGUs shall be harmonized.

The measure provides for the classification of buildings, including residential, business, commercial/mercantile, educational, agricultural, institutional, factory/industrial, storage, utilities and high-hazard.

It prescribes the construction standards and requirements for each category.

The secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways shall be designated as National Building Official and serve as chief implementer of the proposed law.

With 266 affirmative votes, the chamber also approved HB 8569, which would require a Tree Planting Plan (TPP) from all applicants of building permits for residential, commercial, industrial and public building development projects.

The proposal aims to help mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

“In requiring a Tree Planting Plan (TPP) to secure building permits, we aim to enhance environmental quality, mitigate the effects of climate change and preserve the environment for present and future generations,” Romualdez said.

Under the bill, any person, firm, corporation, department, office, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government intending to construct, alter, repair or convert any building or structure, is required to set aside, and properly maintain in said property, areas adequate for planting and maintaining trees and flora.

The proposed legislation particularly gives preference to indigenous species of trees, taking into account the location, climate, and topography of the area.

POLITIKO

Republic of reclamation: Koko Pimentel wants stricter laws for land projects

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel III has urged the Senate to amend or craft laws requiring rigid review for proposed land reclamation projects.

During the Senate public works committee hearing on Wednesday, Pimentel learned from Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairperson Romando Artes that they are not being consulted when it comes to land reclamation, like those along Manila Bay.

With the two agencies left out of the approval process under the auspices of the Philippine Reclamation Authority, Pimentel said it is no wonder reclamation projects are being blamed for flooding in affected areas.

“We can see na mukhang sa reclamation approval process, it has become a republic on its own,” Pimentel said.

With reclamation projects as big business, Pimentel said companies stand to benefit by ensuring its projects comply with environmental standards so that it could avoid throwing away money and avoid “reputational damage” if the project gets shelved.

“Time should have been invested before the approval of the project to proceed... This is the ‘in aid of legislation’ part of this hearing. I think we have to revisit the laws governing reclamation projects,” Pimentel said.

Senators investigated the possible effect of flooding due to land reclamation after all – except one – of the reclamation projects along Manila Bay were shelved by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., amid criticisms the project contributes to flooding and spoils the famed Manila Bay sunset.

THE MANILA TIMES

Sustainability and Singapore Green Plan 2030

Climate change is an existential threat for all of us, but especially for maritime nations such as the Philippines and Singapore. As a small, low-lying island state, Singapore is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise. Although Singapore accounts for only about 0.1 percent of global emissions, we have consistently pursued sustainable development to balance economic development with environmental protection and social inclusion.

Singapore Green Plan 2030

In 2021, we launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030, a sustainability road map that outlines our collective actions to tackle climate change, and commits Singapore to ambitious and concrete sectoral targets over the next ten years. It demonstrates our commitment to ensure Singapore remains a green and liveable home for many generations come. The Green Plan covers all dimensions of life in its five pillars - City in Nature; Energy Reset; Green Economy; Resilient Future; and Sustainable Living.

Since launching the Green Plan, Singapore has made good progress in our sustainability journey. In October 2022, Singapore committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 as part of our Long-Term Emissions Development Strategy, as well as the reducing emissions to around 60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2030.

Leveraging technology to advance our Singapore Green Plan

We are interested in low-carbon technologies that will help us achieve our net zero target. For instance, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) of Singapore has been actively replacing carbon-based energy sources with solar photovoltaic systems deployed on its facilities rooftops and reservoirs. We are also studying new technologies such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage, as well as carbon removal solutions that can be integrated with its water treatment facilities.

PUB is working with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to capture carbon dioxide in seawater and produce hydrogen, and a stream of pre-treated seawater that can be desalinated at lower energy.

Under the Low-Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative, we have awarded S\$55 million to projects aiming to improve the technoeconomic viability of low-carbon technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture, utilisation and storage. We have set aside another S\$129 million of research funding for the next phase of the Initiative.

International cooperation

International collaboration and partnerships are critical for small countries such as Singapore, with limited decarbonisation options. Our small land size and high population density means we are alternative energy disadvantaged.

Singapore works closely with other countries and plays an active role at various multilateral platforms such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Singapore is also committed to supporting developing countries in their efforts to address climate change through technical assistance such as our flagship Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP). Over the last three decades, close to 150,000 officials have participated in courses under the SCP, in areas such as education, sustainable development, urban planning, and transport management.

With an abundance of natural resources and potential for renewable energy, the Philippines has emerged as a key partner for Singapore in our sustainability drive. We look forward to working with the Philippines to find solutions to our common challenges.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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With the theme “Building Bridges: Driving Collective Action for a Climate and Disaster Resilient Asia,” ACCCDR facilitates the exchange of knowledge, innovative solutions, and best practices among the government, private sector, academe, and non-government organizations, aiming to contribute to the development of a more resilient and sustainable Asian societies.

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, a staunch climate and disaster resilience champion, delivered a keynote address focused on the interlinkages between climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, including through nature-based solution.

The event features plenary sessions on public-private partnership for resilient critical infrastructure and lifelines, nurturing resilience in the face of disasters and climate change for food and water security, and leading an inclusive and just climate governance for a climate-resilient society.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje will deliver the Call to Action and Collaboration that will conclude the event.

Other esteemed speakers include Emmanuel Rubio, President and CEO of Aboitiz Power Corporation; Elirozz Carlie Labaria, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Portfolio Coordinator for the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization; and Bruno Carrasco, Director-General of Asian Development Bank’s Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department.

The ACCCDR is presented by Aboitiz Power in partnership with CCC, AIM, Now Corporation, and EASD Environmental Consultancy.

For more information, visit <https://climate.gov.ph> and www.facebook.com/CCCPHL.
CCC

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Regional unity, global action needed for climate resilience

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda on Thursday challenged all stakeholders to work collectively, coherently, and conscientiously towards climate action and disaster resilience.

At the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk (ACCCDR) at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Legarda emphasized the critical role that Asian countries play in shaping the global response to these pressing issues.

Citing the recent scientific findings and reports, she highlighted the profound impact of human activities on global warming and the inadequacy of current policies and financial measures to address climate goals effectively.

"Resilience is relational. For us to survive and thrive in this era of uncertainties, we need to act beyond our silos. We need better coordination and collaboration," Legarda said in her keynote address.

Legarda called for a holistic approach to resilience, emphasizing that cooperation, coordination and resource maximization across all sectors are crucial.

She stressed the need for governments, the private sector and civil society to adopt a transformative mindset in governance, accelerate decarbonization efforts, foster investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and revisit and strengthen environmental laws.

"We must take the path that leads towards resiliency and a low-carbon development – where our energy and transport systems run on renewable energy, where our oceans and forests sustain life above land and below water, and where our industries embrace a circular economy to influence sustainable ways of living in our societies," she added.

Legarda cited the important role of agencies like the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in strengthening the capacities of local government units, and in establishing coordination mechanisms with different sectors to highlight the collaborative work in addressing the impacts of climate change.

She urged all stakeholders to "move and transform our nation and society from a state of fragility to one of agility."

“We all need to work together for the climate; to secure the lives, livelihoods and the future of humankind. In Filipino, patuloy tayong magbayanihan para sa klima; para sa buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ng ating kapwa (Let us continue work together for climate; for life, livelihood and future of our neighbor),” she added.

The conference, which convened experts and advocates from across Asia and the Pacific, aimed to foster collaboration in addressing the challenges of climate change and disasters, particularly their intertwined impacts on vulnerable communities.

The ACCCDR is presented by Aboitiz Power in partnership with CCC, AIM, Now Corporation and EASD Environmental Consultancy.

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Solon reiterates call to integrate climate science in governance

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

A senator resounded on Tuesday her appeal for the government to move forward and consider climate science as a tool in every decision that it makes in the future.

In her privilege speech, Senate Pro Tempore Loren Legarda suggested various approaches in pursuing development with responsible action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Legarda said a transformative mindset in governance, mainstream science, and cascade opportunities to local government units should be adopted.

She said the country's decarbonization efforts should also be accelerated and ensure timely implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution, without being restricted by the 2.71 percent unconditional share in emissions reduction and avoidance.

"Let us aim for higher ambition by embracing the Net Zero scenario, and its imperatives to combat further warming while ensuring access to more advanced, climate-benign technologies," Legarda noted saying environmental laws should also be revisited.

"Especially the Clean Air Act, which no longer meets the World Health Organization 2005 and 2021 guidelines on air quality, and push for other key legislation, such as circular economy, blue economy, ecosystems regeneration, and forest management," she added.

Convergence between agencies and stakeholders, Legarda said, should also be optimized, as well as working with a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and whole-of-world approach to maximize resources and impact for every Filipino.

She also included the proposed national budget that should be scrutinized and see if it is in accordance to the vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

"The recent State of the Nation Address underscored the importance of disaster resilience and climate action and has made this a clear priority of his Administration, stating that progressive, livable, and sustainable communities can only be achieved by taking responsible action to mitigate and adapt to climate change," Legarda recalled.

Considering the future generations, the lawmaker cited the Philippine Development Plan, Sustainable Development Goals, National Climate Change Action Plan, and Nationally

Determined Contribution that should lay out crucial strategies and solutions to climate change for the government to act upon.

Legarda principally authored Senate Bill No. 1993 or the Blue Economy Act, a priority legislation of President Marcos which seeks to support efforts to achieve a vibrant and sustainable economy by prioritizing the country's marine resources.

As the lead policy-making body of the government on climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) echoed Legarda's call for a robust and ambitious climate agenda to further enhance the resilience of Filipino communities against the impacts of climate change.

"We laud Senator Loren Legarda for her tireless efforts in championing climate action, and we look forward to continue working closely with her, other lawmakers, and all government agencies in advancing transformative climate policies and strategies that will benefit all Filipinos," CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

He said enabling a development pathway towards a more sustainable and resilient Philippines requires urgent action and political will.

"We look up to the leadership of Senator Legarda and our lawmakers in Congress to support this transformation that ensure that we thrive amid the climate crisis," he added.

Transform Marawi into a 'green city': CCC

By: Ma. Teresa Montemayor

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Thursday said the rehabilitation of Marawi City must include efforts to transform it into a "green city", and not only a center for trade and business opportunities.

"Bringing back the vibrancy of Marawi is very crucial as the city has always been a trade hub and has contributed greatly to our country's economy and well-being," CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz Sr. said in a statement.

The rehabilitation of Marawi City started in 2017 and is now in its sixth year. Latest report from the Task Force Bangon Marawi said the city's rehabilitation is 85 percent complete.

"However, in rehabilitating Marawi, we must not forget that we should include in the process an advocacy of transforming Marawi into an 'Ecopolis' or 'Green City' that espouses ecological advancement through the promotion of programs and policies that would initiate immediate climate action aside from mitigation and adaptation measures that would respond to the impacts of climate change," dela Cruz said.

Citing the depletion of the country's natural resources and the disappearance of forests, dela Cruz emphasized the importance of maintaining an ecological balance that would support and preserve lives while promoting the preservation and conservation of the environment in the city.

He met with the city's local officials and Muslim elders to remind them to be mindful of their responsibilities as caretakers of the natural resources and observe measures that would enhance the residents' capabilities in attaining food security, economic advancement and resiliency to the adverse impacts of climate change.

"In doing so, we will leave behind a legacy and inheritance for future generations that will be treasured by everyone," he said.

The Marawi City was brought to naught during a five-month war against Islamic State-inspired local terrorists which started in May 2017.

POLITIKO

[Climate body wants Marawi to be transformed into green city](#)

By: Prince Golez

The government should incorporate aspects of the environment and climate change in the rehabilitation of Marawi City, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) said Thursday.

The rehabilitation work of Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) is now at more than 85 percent complete, based on the report of TFBM field office manager Felix Castro Jr.

“Bringing back the vibrancy of Marawi is very crucial as the city has always been a trade hub and has contributed greatly to our country’s economy and well-being,” Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz Sr. said in a news release.

“However, in rehabilitating Marawi, we must not forget that we should include in the process an advocacy of transforming Marawi into an ‘Ecopolis’ or ‘Green City’ that espouses ecological advancement through the promotion of programs and policies that would initiate immediate climate action aside from mitigation and adaptation measures that would respond to the impacts of climate change,” he added.

The climate official cited the value of maintaining an ecological balance that would support and preserve lives while promoting the preservation and conservation of the environment through measures that would help attain food security, economic advancement and climate resilience.

He also warned proponents in Marawi’s rehabilitation against merely focusing on the revival of trade and business, noting that climate complacency could lead to grave impacts on the livelihood and day-to-day existence.

“We cannot concentrate on pure economics and go on with an attitude of ‘business as usual’. We should not wait for the risks and crises we experience to become irreversible. Our depleting natural resources, the disappearance of our forests and biodiversity and every other aspect are all a wake-up call for us to act now,” said Dela Cruz.

“So in rehabilitating our City of Marawi, we should include its transformation into an ‘Green City’ that not only centers on trade and business opportunities but will also focus on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and global warming. In doing so, we will leave behind a legacy and inheritance for future generations that will be treasured by everyone,” he furthered.

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