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NFEH hails announcements of new PM to resolve longstanding environmental and civic issues of Karachi

Karachi: The National Forum for Environment and Health has welcomed the resolve expressed by newly elected Prime Minister Imran Khan to make Karachi free of the longstanding civic problems of municipal waste, water supply, lack of drainage system, and physical encroachments in its various parts. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, the NFEH President Naeem Qureshi hailed all the announcements made by the new prime minister in his first televised address to the nation to resolve the longstanding civic issues of Karachi. He said that Karachi being the city of residence to over 20 million people had been turned into a virtual large-scale garbage dump.

He said that successive governments during the last two decades did nothing to resolve various flagrant civic issues of Karachi. Mr. Qureshi in his statement hailed all announcements by the new prime minister in his address to the nation regarding launching of the tree plantation drive in the country in general and in Karachi in particular, doing necessary sanitation work in the city, and also to initiate other necessary steps to combat the menacing environmental issue of global warming.

He said that Mr. Imran Khan by making all such announcements had become the first ever prime minister of the country who had full realization of the serious issue of environmental degradation. He said that the new PM was fully aware about the issue of climatic change causing serious threats to the Pakistani economy, agriculture, health, and safety of its people. The NFEH president said that the issue of environmental pollution had been causing colossal damage to various sectors of the country as these annual losses were estimated to have gone up to Rs 365 billions.

He welcomed the decision of new PM to appoint Malik Amin Aslam as his advisor on Climate Change issues as he hoped that the newly appointed aide to the prime minister would play an active role towards the cause of environmental protection. He advised the PM's new Advisor on Climate Change to make functional the national level environmental protection council that had been dormant for last many years as meeting of this council should be convened at the earliest to recommend the desirable and workable strategies for the provinces.

He urged the newly elected federal government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to do work in collaboration with the Sindh government to propose a special federally funded programme for restoration and development of civic infrastructure in Karachi. Such measures are desperately required to make Karachi a greener, clean, developed city with an exemplary state of civic infrastructure available to its residents.