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IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, SOLICITOR, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS IMMEDIATELY.

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HARTALEGA HOLDINGS BERHAD
Registration No. 200601022130 (741883-X)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

**SHARE BUY-BACK STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE
PROPOSED RENEWAL OF SHARE BUY-BACK AUTHORITY**

The ordinary resolution in respect of the above proposal will be tabled at our Company’s Seventeenth (17th) Annual General Meeting (“**17th AGM**”) to be held at Boardroom 2&3, 1st Floor, Sime Darby Convention Center, No. 1A, Jalan Bukit Kiara 1, 60000 Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, 5 September 2023, at 9.30 a.m.

The Notice of the 17th AGM of our Company together with the Proxy Form are enclosed in our Company’s 2023 Integrated Annual Report.

The Proxy Form should be completed and lodged at the Company Registrar, Boardroom Share Registrars Sdn Bhd at 11th Floor, Menara Symphony, No. 5, Jalan Prof. Khoo Kay Kim, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia or via electronic means through the Boardroom Smart Investor Portal at <https://investor.boardroomlimited.com> by logging in and selecting “Hartalega Holdings Berhad Seventeenth (17th) Annual General Meeting” from the list of Corporate Meetings to deposit the proxy form electronically not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding of the meeting or at any adjournment thereof.

This Statement is dated 31 July 2023

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Statement, except where the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:-

Act	: Companies Act 2016 as amended from time to time and any re-enactment thereof
AGM	: Annual general meeting
Board	: Board of Directors of our Company
Bursa Depository	: Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd
Bursa Securities	: Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad
EPS	: Earnings per Share
FYE	: Financial year(s) ended/ending
Listing Requirements	: Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities, including any amendments from time to time thereto
LPD	: 30 June 2023, being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this Statement
HHB or our Company	: Hartalega Holdings Berhad
HHB Group	: HHB and our subsidiaries, collectively
HHB Share(s) or Share(s)	: Ordinary share(s) in HHB
NA	: Net assets
Proposed Renewal	: Proposed renewal of the authority for our Company to carry out the Proposed Share Buy-Back
Proposed Share Buy-Back	: Proposed purchase up to ten percent (10%) of our Company's issued and paid-up share capital pursuant to Section 127 of the Act
Record of Depositors	: A record provided by Bursa Depository under Chapter 24 of the rules of Bursa Depository
Rules	: Rules on Take-Overs, Mergers and Compulsory Acquisitions, 2016, as amended from time to time and any re-enactment thereof
Statement	: This Share Buy-Back Statement dated 31 July 2023

All references to “**our Company**” in this Statement are to HHB, and references to “**our Group**” are to our Company and subsidiaries collectively.

References to “**we**”, “**us**”, “**our**” and “**ourselves**” are to our Company, and save where the context otherwise requires, shall include our subsidiaries.

All references to “**you**” in this Statement are to our shareholders.

Words denoting the singular shall, where applicable, include the plural and vice versa, and words denoting the masculine shall, where applicable, include the feminine and/or neuter genders, and vice versa. References to persons shall include corporations, unless otherwise specified.

Any reference to time of day in this Statement shall be a reference to Malaysian time, unless otherwise stated.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED RENEWAL	1
3.	RATIONALE AND POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK	3
4.	POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK	4
5.	EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK	4
6.	INTERESTS OF THE DIRECTORS, SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS AND/OR PERSON CONNECTED TO THEM	6
7.	IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK IN RELATION TO THE RULES	7
8.	PURCHASE, RESALE, TRANSFER OR CANCELLATION OF TREASURY SHARES IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE (12) MONTHS	7
9.	HISTORICAL SHARE PRICES.....	7
10.	APPROVAL REQUIRED	8
11.	DIRECTORS' STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATION.....	8
12.	FURTHER INFORMATION	8
	APPENDIX I – FURTHER INFORMATION.....	9

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HARTALEGA HOLDINGS BERHAD
Registration No. 200601022130 (741883-X)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

1. INTRODUCTION

On 4 July 2023, it was announced that the Company intends to seek the approval of its shareholders for the Proposed Renewal at our forthcoming AGM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT IS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR THE PROPOSED RENEWAL AND TO SEEK YOUR APPROVAL FOR THE ORDINARY RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED RENEWAL TO BE TABLED AT OUR FORTHCOMING 17th AGM, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT BALLROOM 2&3, 1ST FLOOR, SIME DARBY CONVENTION CENTERE, NO. 1A, JALAN BUKIT KIARA 1, 60000 KUALA LUMPUR ON TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2023, AT 9.30 A.M.

YOU ARE ADVISED TO READ AND CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT BEFORE VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED RENEWAL TO BE TABLED AT THE FORTHCOMING AGM.

2. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED RENEWAL

At the Sixteenth (16th) AGM of our Company held on 1 September 2022, our shareholders had, *inter-alia*, approved the renewal of authority to our Company to purchase up to ten percent (10%) of the issued and paid-up share capital of our Company. The aforesaid approval will continue in force until the conclusion of the forthcoming Seventeenth (17th) AGM, which will be held on 5 September 2023.

Therefore, your approval is required for the Proposed Renewal. The Proposed Renewal will be effective immediately after the passing of the ordinary resolution to be tabled at our forthcoming AGM and will continue to be in force until:

- (i) the conclusion of our next AGM, at which time the authority will lapse unless renewed by ordinary resolution, either unconditionally or subject to conditions; or
- (ii) the expiration of the period within which our next AGM after that date is required by law to be held; or
- (iii) the authority is revoked or varied by ordinary resolution passed by our shareholders in a general meeting,

whichever occurs first.

Your approval for the Proposed Renewal does not impose an obligation on our Company to purchase its own Shares. Rather, it will allow our Board to exercise the power of our Company to purchase its own Shares at any time within the abovementioned time period.

2.1 Quantum and funding

Our Board is proposing to seek a renewal of mandate from our shareholders to purchase up to ten per cent (10%) of its issued and paid-up share capital of our Company at any point in time subject to the compliance with the provisions of the Act and the requirements of Bursa Securities and/or any other relevant authorities.

For illustration purposes, the maximum number of Shares that may be purchased under the Proposed Renewal based on the existing issued and paid-up share capital as at LPD are as follows:-

	No. of Shares
Issued and paid-up share capital as at LPD	3,427,606,863
10% of the enlarged issued and paid-up share capital	342,760,686
Maximum number of Shares that may be purchased pursuant to the Proposed Renewal	342,760,686

The purchase of the Shares by our Company from the open market on Bursa Securities will be made through a stockbroker appointed by our Company.

Shares to be purchased by the Company pursuant to the Proposed Renewal will be funded from internally generated funds and/or bank borrowings. Under the Listing Requirements, the maximum funds to be utilised for the purchase of HHB's own Shares cannot exceed the level of retained profits of the Company.

Based on the latest audited financial statement of HHB as at 31 March 2023, its retained earnings stood at RM240,730,969.

Accordingly, our Directors shall allocate an amount of funds which will not be more than the total amount of the retained profits in respect of any purchase of our own Shares pursuant to the Proposed Share Buy-Back.

The actual number of HHB Shares to be purchased, the total amount of funds to be utilised, details of borrowings, impact on cash flows and the timing of the purchase(s) will depend on the prevailing equity market conditions and sentiments as well as the financial resources available to the Company at the time of the purchase(s). In the event bank borrowings are taken to fund the purchase of HHB's own Shares pursuant to the Proposed Share Buy-Back, our Board will ensure that our Company has the capability to repay such borrowings and that such repayment will not have a material effect on our Group's cash flow.

2.2 Treatment of Shares purchased

In accordance with Section 127 of the Act, the Shares purchased may be dealt by our Board in the following manner:

- (i) cancel the Shares so purchased; or
- (ii) retain the Shares so purchased as treasury shares and held by our Company; or
- (iii) retain part of the Shares so purchased as treasury shares and cancel the remainder,

the purchased Shares held as treasury shares may be distributed as dividends to our shareholders and/or resold on the market of Bursa Securities in accordance with the relevant rules of Bursa Securities and/or subsequently cancelled.

The actual treatment of the Shares purchased would depend on, *inter-alia*, the prevailing equity market conditions and our financial position at the time of the purchase(s).

Upon each purchase of Shares, an immediate announcement will be made to Bursa Securities in respect of our Board's decision on the treatment of the Shares purchased.

2.3 Regulatory requirements

The Proposed Renewal is subject to compliance with Section 127 of the Act, the Listing Requirements and any prevailing laws, rules, regulations, orders, guidelines and requirements issued by the relevant authorities at the time of the purchase.

Based on the Listing Requirements, the Proposed Share Buy-Back is subject to, *inter-alia*, the following rules:

- the public shareholding spread of twenty-five per cent (25%) of our total listed Shares (excluding treasury shares) is to be maintained at all times;
- the purchase price of our Shares on the Bursa Securities cannot be more than fifteen per cent (15%) above the weighted average market price for the Shares for the five (5) market days immediately before the purchase;
- an immediate announcement will be made to Bursa Securities on any purchase of our own Shares as well as any resale or cancellation of the Shares purchased; and
- if subsequently resold on Bursa Securities, we may only resell the Shares purchased at:
 - (a) a price which is not less than the weighted average market price for the Shares for the five (5) market days immediately before the resale; or
 - (b) a discounted price of not more than five per cent (5%) to the weighted average market price of the Shares for the five (5) market days immediately before the resale provided that:
 - (i) the resale takes place no earlier than thirty (30) days from the date of purchase; and
 - (ii) the resale price is not less than the cost of purchase of the Shares being resold.

2.4 Ranking of the Shares Purchased

While the Shares purchased are held as treasury shares, Section 127(8) of the Act states that the rights attached to them as to voting, dividends and participation in other distributions and otherwise are suspended and the treasury shares shall not be taken into account in calculating the number or percentage of Shares or of a class of Shares in HHB for any purposes including, without limiting the generality of Section 127(8) of the Act, the provisions of any law or requirements of the Articles of Association of HHB or the Listing Requirements on substantial shareholding, takeovers, notices, the requisitioning of meetings, the quorum for a meeting and the result of a vote on a resolution at a meeting.

3. RATIONALE AND POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK

The Proposed Share Buy-Back if implemented is expected to potentially benefit our Company and you. The Proposed Share Buy-Back would enable our Group to utilise its surplus financial resources to purchase our own Shares when appropriate and at prices which our Board views as favourable. The Proposed Share Buy-Back may stabilise the supply and demand of the Shares and reduce the volatility of our share prices.

The Proposed Share Buy-Back would effectively reduce the number of Shares carrying voting and participation rights (unless the Shares purchased are resold on Bursa Securities or distributed as share dividends). Consequently (whether the Shares purchased are held as treasury shares or cancelled) all else being equal, the EPS of our Company may be enhanced as the earnings of HHB would be divided by a reduced number of Shares. The enhancement in EPS, if any, arising from the Proposed Share Buy-Back is expected to benefit you.

The Shares purchased can be held as treasury shares and be resold on Bursa Securities at a higher price than their cost of purchase and therefore realising a potential gain in reserves without affecting our total issued and paid-up share capital. The treasury shares may also be distributed to our shareholders as share dividends. If the treasury shares are distributed as share dividends, it will serve to reward you.

The Shares purchased may also be cancelled at such time(s) when our Board is of the view that there is excess share capital and wish to reduce the number of Shares in circulation.

4. POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK

The Proposed Share Buy-Back, if implemented, is expected to reduce financial resources of our Group. This may result in our Group foregoing better investment opportunities which may emerge in the future and/or any interest income that may be derived from other alternative uses of such funds such as deposit of funds in interest bearing instruments.

As the funds to be allocated for the Proposed Share Buy-Back must be made wholly out of our Company's retained profits, the amount available from these accounts for distribution to you may decrease accordingly.

Nevertheless, the Proposed Share Buy-Back is not expected to have any potential material disadvantages to our Group and you, as it will be implemented only after careful consideration of the financial resources of our Group and its resultant impact on you. Our Board is mindful of the interest of our Group and you and will be prudent with respect to the above exercise.

5. EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK

The effects of the Proposed Share Buy-Back on the share capital, NA, working capital, earnings, and shareholdings of Directors and substantial shareholders of our Company are set out below:

5.1 Share Capital

The effect of the Proposed Share Buy-Back on our issued and paid-up share capital will depend on the treatment of the Shares purchased. The Proposed Share Buy-Back will result in a reduction of the issued and paid-up share capital of our Company if the Shares purchased are cancelled.

In the event that the Proposed Share Buy-Back is carried out in full and all the Shares purchased are cancelled, the pro forma effects on the Proposed Share Buy-Back on the issued and paid-up share capital of our Company will be as follows:

	No. of HHB Shares
Issued and paid-up share capital as at LPD	^(a) 3,427,606,863
Cancellation of Shares purchased	^(b) (342,760,686)
Issued and paid-up share capital after the Proposed Share Buy-Back	3,084,846,177

Note:

- (a) *Inclusive of 10,145,000 treasury shares held by our Company based on the Record of Depositors as at the LPD.*
- (b) *Being 10% of the issued and paid-up share capital.*

However, the Proposed Share Buy-Back will not have any effect on our issued and paid-up share capital if the Shares purchased are retained as treasury shares, resold on the open market or distributed as share dividends to our shareholders.

5.2 Net Assets (“NA”)

The effects of the Proposed Share Buy-Back on our consolidated NA per share would depend on the purchase prices paid and number of Shares purchased.

The Proposed Share Buy-Back will reduce the consolidated NA per Share if the purchase price exceeds the consolidated NA per Share at the time of purchase. However, the consolidated NA per Share will increase if the purchase price is less than the consolidated NA per Share at the time of purchase.

If the Shares purchased are held as treasury shares and subsequently resold on Bursa Securities, the consolidated NA per Share upon the resale will increase if our Company realises a gain from the resale, and vice-versa. If the treasury shares are distributed as share dividends, our Group’s NA will decrease by the cost of the treasury shares.

5.3 Working Capital

The Proposed Share Buy-Back, as and when implemented, is likely to reduce the working capital of our Group, the quantum of which depends on the purchase prices of the Shares purchased, the actual number of Shares purchased and any associated costs incurred in making the purchase.

For Shares purchased which are kept as treasury shares, upon their resale, the working capital and the cash flow of our Group may increase with the receipt of the proceeds of the resale. The quantum of the increase in the working capital and cash flow will depend on the actual selling price(s) of the treasury shares and the number of treasury shares resold and any associated costs incurred in undertaking the sale.

5.4 Earnings

The effects of the Proposed Share Buy-Back on the earnings of our Group would depend on the purchase price(s) and number of Shares purchased as well as the effective funding cost to our Company to finance such purchases and/or loss in interest income to our Group if internally generated funds are utilised. The reduced issued and paid-up share capital as a consequence to the Proposed Share Buy-Back will generally, all else being equal, have a positive impact on our Group’s EPS.

5.5 Directors’ and Substantial Shareholders’ Shareholdings

Shares purchased by our Company under the Proposed Share Buy-Back that are retained as treasury shares and/or subsequently cancelled will result in a proportionate increase in the percentage shareholdings of our directors and substantial shareholders. Please refer to Section 6 below for further details.

5.6 Shareholding Spread

The public shareholding spread of our Company according to our Record of Depositors maintained by Bursa Depository as at LPD is approximately 49.42% held by 37,274 public shareholders, each holding not less than 100 shares each.

The public shareholding spread would be reduced to approximately 43.96% assuming our Company implements the Proposed Share Buy-Back in full and that the Shares purchased are from public shareholders.

In this regard, our Board undertakes to purchase Shares only to the extent that our public shareholding spread shall not fall below 25% of our total listed Shares (excluding treasury shares) at all times pursuant to the Proposed Share Buy-Back, in accordance with paragraph 12.14 of the Listing Requirements or such other percentages that Bursa Securities may stipulate.

6. INTERESTS OF THE DIRECTORS, SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS AND/OR PERSON CONNECTED TO THEM

Save for the consequent increase in the percentage shareholdings and/or voting rights in our Company as a result of the Proposed Share Buy-Back, none of our Directors, substantial shareholders or persons connected to them has any interest, direct or indirect, in the Proposed Share Buy-Back.

Based on our Record of Depositors maintained by Bursa Depository as at LPD and assuming the Company implements the Proposed Share Buy-Back in full and that the Shares purchased are from parties other than our Company's directors and substantial shareholders, the effect of the Proposed Share Buy-Back on the shareholdings of the Directors and substantial shareholders as at LPD are as follows:

Name of Director	As at LPD				After the Proposed Share Buy-Back			
	Direct		Indirect		Direct		Indirect	
	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%
Kuan Kam Hon @ Kwan Kam Onn	100,284,462	2.93	1,482,523,754 (1)(3)(4)	43.25	100,284,462	3.25	1,482,523,754 (1)(3)(4)	48.06
Kuan Mun Leong	15,954,000	0.47	-	-	15,954,000	0.52	-	-
Kuan Mun Keng	10,900,800	0.32	-	-	10,900,800	0.35	-	-
Datuk Loo Took Gee	10,000	#	-	-	10,000	#	-	-

Name of Substantial Shareholder	As at LPD				After the Proposed Share Buy-Back			
	Direct		Indirect		Direct		Indirect	
	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%	No. of Shares	%
Hartalega Industries Sdn Bhd	1,175,317,618	34.29	-	-	1,175,317,618	38.10	-	-
Kuan Kam Hon @ Kwan Kam Onn	100,284,462	2.93	1,482,523,754 (1)(3)(4)	43.25	100,284,462	3.25	1,482,523,754 (1)(3)(4)	48.06
Kuan Kam Peng	92,987,480	2.71	1,175,547,618 (2)(3)(4)	34.30	92,987,480	3.01	1,175,547,618 (2)(3)(4)	38.11
Budi Tenggara Sdn Bhd	294,917,656	8.60	-	-	294,917,656	9.56	-	-

Notes:

Negligible.

- (1) Deemed interest through his shareholding in Hartalega Industries Sdn Bhd and Budi Tenggara Sdn Bhd by virtue of Section 8(4) of the Act.
- (2) Deemed interest through his shareholding in Hartalega Industries Sdn Bhd by virtue of Section 8(4) of the Act.
- (3) Deemed interest by virtue of his spouse/children's shareholding.
- (4) Deemed interest through his shareholding in Yayasan Hartalega by virtue of Section 197 of the Act.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED SHARE BUY-BACK IN RELATION TO THE RULES

In the event the Proposed Share Buy-Back results in any major shareholder and/or persons acting in concert with him/her ("PACs") trigger the mandatory offer obligation for the remaining Shares not already held by them in our Company under Paragraph 4.01 of the Rules on Take-Overs, Mergers and Compulsory Acquisitions, 2016 ("Rules"), the affected major shareholder and PACs may apply for an exemption to extend a mandatory offer obligation for the remaining Shares not already held by them in our Company from the Securities Commission Malaysia before the said obligation is triggered.

Further, under Paragraph 4.15 of the Rules, the affected major shareholder and/or PACs who trigger a mandatory offer obligation for the remaining shares not already held by them in our Company as a result of the Proposed Share Buy-Back will be exempted from the said obligation subject to the below conditions:

a) there is no disqualifying transaction; and

b) approval has been obtained from independent holders of voting shares or voting rights of our Company at a meeting of the holders of the relevant class of voting shares or voting rights to waive their rights to receive the mandatory offer from the affected major shareholder and PACs.

Any exemption will be invalidated if the affected major shareholder or PACs have engaged in a disqualifying transaction. Disqualifying transaction refers to an acquisition/a purchase of voting shares or voting rights in our Company (save for subscriptions for new shares which have been fully disclosed in the whitewash circular) before the date on which the authority of the Proposed Share Buy-Back expires, if such acquisitions, taken together with the Proposed Share Buy-Back would cause them to incur a mandatory offer obligation.

Further, it is not the intention of our Company to cause any shareholders to trigger the mandatory offer obligations under the Rules and our Company will be mindful of the above implications of the Rules in making any purchase of our own Shares pursuant to the Proposed Share Buy-Back.

8. PURCHASE, RESALE, TRANSFER OR CANCELLATION OF TREASURY SHARES IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE (12) MONTHS

There was no purchase of HHB shares for the past twelve (12) months preceding to the LPD.

As at 30 June 2022, being the LPD prior to the printing of this Statement, HHB held a total of 10,145,000 treasury shares. There was no resale, transfer or cancellation of treasury shares during this period.

9. HISTORICAL SHARE PRICES

The monthly highest and lowest prices of HHB traded on Bursa Securities for the past 12 months from June 2022 to May 2023 are as follows:

	Highest RM	Lowest RM
2022		
June	4.26	2.56
July	2.96	2.61
August	2.90	1.57
September	1.70	1.46
October	2.20	1.61
November	2.20	1.70
December	1.84	1.51
2023		
January	1.73	1.53
February	1.76	1.47

March	2.12	1.41
April	2.22	1.87
May	2.71	1.81

(Source: www.hartalega.com.my)

The last transacted price of HHB on LPD was RM1.89.

10. APPROVAL REQUIRED

The Proposed Renewal is conditional upon your approval at our forthcoming AGM.

11. DIRECTORS' STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Our Board, having taken into consideration all aspects of the Proposed Renewal, is of the opinion that the Proposed Renewal is in the best interest of our Company. Accordingly, our Board recommends that you vote in favour of the ordinary resolution in respect of the Proposed Renewal to be tabled at our forthcoming AGM.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Shareholders are requested to refer to Appendix I for further information.

This Statement is dated 31 July 2023.

APPENDIX I – FURTHER INFORMATION

1. DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

This Statement has been seen and approved by the Directors of HHB who collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information given and confirm that after making all reasonable enquiries and to the best of their knowledge and belief, there are no material facts, the omission of which would make any statement herein misleading.

2. DOCUMENTS FOR INSPECTION

Copies of the following documents will be made available for inspection at the registered office of HHB at B-25-2, Block B, Jaya One, No. 72A, Jalan Prof Diraja Ungku Aziz, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia during normal business hours on Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) from the date of this Statement up to and including the date of the AGM:

- (i) the Constitution of HHB;
- (ii) the audited financial statements of HHB for the past two (2) financial years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2021; and
- (iii) The unaudited result of the Group and Company for the final quarter ended 31 March 2023.

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