



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **SOLIDARITY FUND TO SUPPORT AND AUGMENT GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO KZN AND EASTERN CAPE FLOODING | 19 APRIL 2022**

**Johannesburg, 19 April 2022** - The Solidarity Fund has resolved to support and augment the National Government response to the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, and the resultant devastating after effects on both infrastructure and broader society in these areas and further afield.

The decision was taken at an urgent Solidarity Fund Board meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 where a request was tabled by National Government for the Fund to support the national response. As a result, the **Solidarity Fund Floods Response pillar** has been established which will ringfence the floods response activities and will operate separately from the COVID-19 fund. The National Treasury will make an initial amount of funding available to the Fund so that it is in a position to assist in implementing and augmenting certain of government's support measures. A bank account, separate from the COVID response account, has been set up to receive donations from donors. Details pertaining to the value of initial funding, timing and focus of the response will become clearer in the coming days and a more detailed statement will be issued in due course.

For an area still reeling from the after effects of the COVID lockdowns and the July unrest, the impact of the floods is particularly devastating. The Fund is ideally positioned to respond and provide rapid and impactful support to those in need.

"Responding to this disaster falls well within the Fund's second phase of operation," remarks Gloria Serobe, The Solidarity Fund Chairperson. "In March, the Solidarity Fund board passed a resolution that the Fund would be wound down over time and put in a dormant state. It was anticipated that it could be remobilised rapidly and effectively should another overwhelming national crisis occur. Although it was not anticipated that this eventuality would arise so soon, such a decision provided for exactly the circumstance that have arisen. The Solidarity Fund is well placed to assume this role."

Working closely with government, business and civil society, as it has under its COVID-19 response and Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund mandates, the Fund will respond to the National State of Disaster and the urgent need that has presented itself in KZN and other affected parts of the country.

The Solidarity Fund Flood Response will account for its activities with the same transparency and corporate governance that has been applied to all of the Fund's activities to date.

"The recent floods that have affected Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape, and that will inevitably have a long-term, devastating impact on the whole country, call for urgent and

meaningful action. The Solidarity Fund shares the anxieties of those affected and stands ready to work alongside Government, business and civil society to assist wherever possible.”  
Gloria Serobe, Solidarity Fund Chairperson.

**Editor’s notes:**

**Solidarity Fund Floods Response Pillar bank account:**

Account name: SF Floods Response

Bank: Standard Bank Business Current Account

Account Number: 070064474

For detailed information and reporting about donations received, projects and approvals, as well as the impact the Fund is having, visit [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za)

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