



MEDIA RELEASE

SOLIDARITY FUND PLAYS CRITICAL ROLE IN THE REOPENING OF CHARLOTTE MAXEKE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY UNIT

Johannesburg, 23 May 2022 – The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) reopened the doors to its Accident and Emergency Unit on Monday, 9th of May 2022 during an event held at the hospital to mark the official recommissioning of the unit.

When the hospital suffered extensive damage due to fire in April 2021, the Gauteng Province COVID-19 health response was severely impacted. Due to the urgent need, the Solidarity Fund was approached to assist in facilitating the refurbishment and enabling the rapid reopening of the hospital.

In August 2021 the Fund approved an amount of R68 million for the refurbishment of Block One, which contains all trauma and emergency admissions departments on Level 6. These departments were prioritised in line with CMJAH's ambition to have this section open to relieve the pressure on surrounding hospitals.

The success of this particular project depended on trusted partnerships, cooperation and communication, and the professionalism and quality of service provided. From the outset, the Fund worked closely with the National and Provincial Departments of Health to ensure the refurbishment was completed timeously and in line with the highest possible standards. From an operational perspective, the Fund appointed SPIRE as their implementing agent, who then contracted Zutari as the on-site Engineers and W3O as the primary contractor.

The hospital has received the necessary Occupational Health Safety approvals and certificates from the City of Johannesburg for the Accident and Emergency Department. It is important to note that the completion of this Unit and, subsequently, of the Solidarity Fund's role, is but one part of a multi-phase, multi-year project that will be carried out on the hospital in its entirety.

"The fire at Charlotte Maxeke was a devastating blow to all of Gauteng. It put incredible strain on the surrounding hospitals at a time when infection rates were growing and hospitalisations increasing. There was no question that the Solidarity Fund would respond in the way it was mandated to do and provide assistance. Our focus has always been to augment the government's COVID-19 response and move swiftly to fill the gaps when needed. I am grateful to all our partners whose generosity and professionalism ensured that

the people of Gauteng can access the care that they need as the nation is faced with yet another wave of COVID-19 infections.” Tandi Nzimande, CEO of The Solidarity Fund.

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