

Solidarity Fund Integrated Annual Report and Update Media Briefing - Presentation Script

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• ADI ENTHOVEN • SUM-UP/WAY FORWARD (5 MINS)

The 18 months of the Fund have involved a monumental and unprecedented effort by hundreds of volunteers and a huge number of companies providing pro bono services. I can't think of a single company that we approached for help that turned us down, and we had endless offers of assistance.

It has been exhausting, but enormously rewarding. We have all felt a huge burden of responsibility to the individuals and companies that have supported us, and to the country. As our audit has shown, we have exercised this responsibility with the greatest care, and an abiding commitment to have the biggest impact possible.

It has not been without its challenges, and we have learnt so much. But I am extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve and the difference we've been able to make.

As you have heard at this briefing, our first six months were very focused on preparing the country and the health system to meet the crisis as quickly and efficiently as possible. We had to be agile and responsive, rapidly scaling testing, and sourcing and distributing PPE, ventilators and critical care equipment to those who needed it most. Partnering with highly skilled and experienced health and procurement volunteers out of the private sector, we managed this without any incidents of malfeasance.

We also worked with great urgency to provide food and humanitarian assistance to many vulnerable South Africans whose livelihoods suffered due to the lockdown and pandemic response measures.

Over the following six months, we focused on extending the reach of our interventions and putting in place sustainable solutions designed to help strengthen the health system beyond the crisis.

The last 6 months have seen a heavy focus on supporting the National Vaccine Roll-out Programme. In addition to this, in the days after the upheavals in July, we formed the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund directed at food security, medical supplies and business recovery in KZN and Gauteng.

Supporting the national vaccine roll-out programme will remain the priority of the Solidarity Fund for the foreseeable future. We cannot over-emphasise the importance of the vaccine programme both to save lives and to revive our economy.

I want to take this opportunity to urge everyone to roll up their sleeves and get

vaccinated against COVID-19. Government, Civil Society and Business have all worked tirelessly to ensure equitable access to the vaccine, and vaccines are now widely available. To get back to normal, we call on everyone to get vaccinated and join the campaign to get the nation vaccinated.

As we approach the festive season, it seems likely that we will experience a 4th wave. Our most powerful weapon to blunt the impact of this wave is to get all adults in the country vaccinated. In addition, we can significantly diminish the scale and impact of the 4th wave by continuing to wear masks, maintain physical distancing, sanitise and, most importantly, make sure that when we are in enclosed spaces with others, that these spaces are well ventilated. This is an airborne virus. Keep windows and doors open.

While we are all tired of the seemingly endless surges and lockdowns, we need to hang in there a little bit longer. Comprehensive vaccination will set us on a path to rebuild our country, and hopefully the Solidarity Fund becomes an example of how we can come together as a country to address the many other challenges we have.