FNB assists with repairs at Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital

28 June 2021 - On the 16th of April, a raging fire engulfed the Charlotte Maxeke Academic Johannesburg Hospital (CMAJH), leading to the evacuation and suspension of services for safety reasons. The fire consumed part of the Special Dispensary Stores on the north side of the hospital building which spread to various sections of the parking lot with the smoke spreading across the hospital building resulting in a section of the parking garage collapsing, rendering the facility unsafe.

The impact of the fire caused severe damage to property, infrastructure and disrupted communities who needed critical medical attention. The hospital’s subsequent closure resulted in more than 700 patients being transferred to other healthcare facilities. Stock, including personal protective equipment (PPE), was damaged in the fire.

“There was an urgent need to assist CMAJH as the country battles with the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. FNB together with RMB assisted by providing 12 buses to transport patients and healthcare professionals to various hospitals in Gauteng during April and May; and in addition FNB together with RMB replaced 19 fire doors and dry walling to help reopen the oncology ward, which was deemed urgent,” says Sipho Silinda, CEO Public Sector Banking.

“The speed with which FNB leadership came to the rescue of committed CMJAH staff, who were faced with long trips to follow their patients as far as Steve Biko Academic hospital after the fire incident, is appreciated,” says Gladys Bogoshi, Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

“Over and above, the gesture of contributing to the fire doors, to assist with preparations to re-open the hospital, has further strengthened the public-private partnership that can only improve access to health care to all Gauteng citizens. You turned a situation that seemed impossible to be possible. We are truly humbled by the love and Ubuntu expressed by FNB. On behalf of staff and management of the hospital, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and looking forward to continuing to work together,” adds Bogoshi.
“Public hospitals are under immense pressure; hence it is important for organisations to find ways of helping our communities. This requires us to come together and contribute towards various relief efforts. Our ethos of HELP lies at the centre of everything we do, and we are actively involved in contributing to worthy causes that make a difference for both individuals and communities in need,” concludes Silinda.

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