

## **Media Release**

Release: immediate



September 15 2020 - The New National Assurance Company (NNAC), the insurer of the Juma Masjid (Grey Street Mosque) Trust is pleased to announce that it has paid out to mosque Trustees the final settlement for all losses incurred from the fire which devastated the complex on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2020.

This follows an interim payment made previously in order to assist Trustees begin initial repairs.

At a ceremony at the mosque, managing director Kalim Rajab said that NNAC was proud of its ability to support the mosque through its time of need. Work will now begin on ensuring repairs begin in earnest on flats and commercial areas gutted by the fire.

Trust chairperson advocate Abu Bakr Mohammed thanked NNAC for its handling of the claim together with their broker, Halifax Insurance Brokers. "NNAC ticked all the boxes and worked efficiently to ensure the claim was paid out in record time. They had to get the architects, the building measurements and other factoring issues to make it possible. The ball is now in our court to get the rebuilding off the ground."

NNAC is the country's largest black-owned short-term insurer, with assets of approximately R1bn. Despite this, Rajab said that he felt especially proud of the company's ability to respond quickly to covering the loss. "This loss felt personal to us. This is a heritage site and perhaps the most iconic monument of our community in Natal. In a sense NNAC, which was formed in Victoria Street, was begun as a community venture in its shadow - so I'm so proud that we were able to play a part in ensuring its continuing story."

He also thanked the mosque's insurance brokers, led by Sarfaraz Rasool, for proactively working with NNAC and the trustees of the mosque to ensure repairs were carried out swiftly so to cause minimal disruption to the mosque and its tenants.

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### **About NNAC:**

NNAC is South Africa's largest black-owned short-term insurer. It underwrites most classes of insurance, including domestic, commercial, engineering, marine and liability. It has a credit rating for the 2020/21 year of 'A' (stable).

### **About the Juma Masjid (Grey Street) Mosque:**

Juma Masjid Mosque is the oldest Indian mosque in South Africa and was built in 1881 by Muslim migrants from Porbander. The pioneer Indian trader Aboobaker Jhavery bought the first piece of land in 1880 followed by other trades buying adjacent plots of land for the mosque's construction. By 1899, the entire block was developed for residential, commercial and educational activities so that an entire complex could be formed. It is the largest mosque in the southern hemisphere and an icon of the Casbah.