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Date: 18 Dec 2005

India: South Africa brings Rs.3 mn for Tamil Nadu tsunami aid



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(Chennai, Dec 18) Prime Minister of South Africa's Kwazulu-Natal province Joel Sibusiso Ndebele Sunday handed \$69,000 (Rs.3 million) to an NGO here to build houses for tsunami victims in Tamil Nadu.

The South African leader also handed over the keys of two houses to two tsunami-affected families from Nagapattinam, about 400 km south of Chennai.

Speaking on the occasion, Ndebele said: "The proud group of people from India who were brought to Africa as workers in the 1800s have progressed from being migrant labours to occupying top positions in all sectors of the economy.

"It is a part of their contribution that has been brought back to Tamil Nadu."

The aid was collected at the initiative of the Tamil Federation of South Africa and received by Isha Foundation, a non-religious, international public service organisation headquartered in Coimbatore.

The funds will be used to build cyclone-proof houses for families affected by the Dec 26 tsunami in Nagapattinam.

The foundation has already started building 10 houses in Pazhangallimedu village in Nagapattinam.

Tamil Federation chief Bala Naidoo and Krishnammal Jagannathan and a delegation from Kwazulu-Natal were present at the function in the city when the fund was handed over to the Isha Foundation.

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