



\$69,000 given for tsunami relief in Nagai

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Chennai, Dec 18: The premier of the South African province of Kwazulu-Natal, Joel Sibusiso Ndebele, handed over 69,000 US dollars to Isha Foundation's tsunami relief programme here today.

The fund will be used to build 20 cyclone-proof houses, which will be donated to families affected by the tsunami in Nagapattinam, Ndebele said at the handing over function here.

Isha Foundation is a non-religious, non-political, international public service organisation, headquartered in Coimbatore. The foundation has already started construction of 10 houses in Pazhangallimedu village in Magapattinam district, in conjunction with the Land for Tiller Movement (LAFTI), headed by Padmasree Krishnammal Jagannathan.

Acknowledging the efforts of Indians in South Africa, Ndebele said, "the proud group of people from India, who have been brought as workers in the 1800s, have progressed from being migrant labours to occupying top positions in all sectors of the economy. They are playing a meaningful and substantial role in the building of our democracy."

Considering the importance played by the Indian community in the development of South Africa, his government would start projects and campaigns to revive their heritage from the Indian to the Zulu culture, he said.

The amount has been collected under the initiative of the Tamil Federation of South Africa.

Federation head Bala Naidoo and Padmasree Krishnammal Jagannathan and a delegation from Kwazulu-Natal were also present at the function. Later, Ndebele handed over the keys of two houses, the construction of which has been completed, to two tsunami-affected families from Nagapattinam. (Our Correspondent)