

TRIBAL COUNCIL

KAMORTA, P.O. NANCOWRIE - 744 303

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To

The Secretary (Industries),
Andaman & Nicobar Administration
Secretariat, Port Blair-744101.

Sub: PREPARING PLAN AND PROJECT FOR 'NICOBAR CULTURE CENTRE' AT PORT BLAIR - REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN.

Sir,

At the outset, we express our sincere gratitude to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for all the supports extended to the people of Nicobar group of Islands in reviving their normal lives after the disastrous *tsunami* of 26th December 2004.

This has a reference to our discussion had with our tribal leaders of the Tribal Council of Nancowrie group of Islands to start a 'Nicobar Culture Centre' at Port Blair. On the same issue, the matter was also discussed with the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands. It is needless to mention that deserving focuses on this aspect, that is, to start a 'Nicobar Culture Centre' at Port Blair for reviving the cultural tradition of indigenous people of Nicobar group of Islands has gone unnoticed by the appropriate authorities till now.

It is a matter of fact that the Nicobar group of Islands is one of the areas which was severely struck by the tidal wave (*tsunami*) on 26th December 2004 - which claimed thousands of lives of Nicobar tribes. Though, after the said tsunami, the survivors have been supplied with the barest necessities, but no supports for cultural survival have been bestowed upon them upto the expected extent till now. Therefore, it has been envisaged that the proposed 'Nicobar Culture Centre' at Port Blair would shoulder that onus for the indigenous people of Nicobar group of Islands.

It is needless to mention that 'cultural heritage' of a community, past and/or present, is a source of pride for future generations of that particular community. From that point of view, the unique 'cultural tradition' of the indigenous people of Nicobar group of Islands should be preserved for their future generations. The envisaged 'Nicobar Culture Centre' at Port Blair would, go a long way to revive the cultural heritage of the indigenous people of Nicobar group of Islands - which has somehow been perturbed by the tsunami of 26th December 2004.

In view of what have been stated in the foregoing paragraphs, we most sincerely request your goodself to kindly help us to prepare a Plan and Project for the envisaged 'Nicobar Culture Centre' at Port Blair at the earliest - for which we shall remain grateful to you.

Thanking You.

Yours faithfully,
for: TRIBAL COUNCIL

(Joseph Herbert Long)
Secretary