



MEDIA RELEASE

From:

African Think Tank Inc.

**WORKING WITH
VICTORIA'S AFRICAN COMMUNITY
www.att.org.au
m) 0405 479 275**

DATE: 13 January 2011

AFRICAN THINK TANK EXPRESSES DISMAY AT QLD FLOODS AND SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS

Melbourne, Vic:

The African Think Tank today expressed dismay at the Queensland Floods and pledged the willingness of African community members and member communities to raise funds and assist in any way possible.

“This is a terrible disaster, with Reports of the tragic loss of lives” said Dr. Berhan Ahmed, Chairperson of the African think Tank. “We can only be thankful that, owing to the great efforts of the SES and volunteers, the casualties have not been higher.

“The African community members and member communities of the African think Tank have been contacting me to ask what they can do. As yet there is little, directly, but some are organising fundraising events to assist the victims of the floods. No people or country is safe from sudden disaster; we must all do what we can to help.

“It will take years to recover from the economic damage. An area equal to almost a fifth of Australia or a little less than 20% of the continental United States has been declared a disaster area. Damage and lost revenue are estimated over AUD \$13 billion.

“This unprecedented La Nina is another indication that we must prepare for extreme and disastrous events driven by Climate Change. Our national response strategies must be prepared for this. With heavy rains and possible wildfire still predicted for Victoria, and the rest of Australia, the African Think Tank has asked African communities to educate our members and friends on the appropriate responses to floods, bushfire and to be alert to render assistance wherever they can.

A large number of African communities have family and friends residing in some of the areas that have been affected. Our thoughts and prayers are also with you.

Please donate generously to the “Queensland Flood victims appeal”. The African community members are also ready to assist as volunteers and any moral and practical support to our colleagues in the flood affected areas.

**Dr. Berhan Ahmed, Chairperson, African Think Tank Inc
m) 0405 479 275
e) berhanahmed@iprimus.com.au**