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Unused RM28m of tsunami aid fund sent back to the Treasury

PORT KLANG: RM51.4mil from the RM78.8mil collected for the special fund for tsunami aid has been allocated to state governments, ministries and government agencies to carry out relief work. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said “the balance of about RM28mil has been returned to the Treasury.” He was responding to the 2005 Auditor-General’s report that an excess amount from the fund had not been returned to the Treasury. “I’d like to state that the amount that has to be returned (to the Treasury) has been returned,” Najib said at a ceremony to disband a Malaysian team which had been on a three-month peacekeeping mission in Timor Leste. Najib said the RM51.4mil had been used to carry out post-tsunami and other relief work. He said the Auditor-General would be consulted to find out why the matter was raised. He said the fund had also been closed according to procedures. Earlier, Najib praised the troops for their good work in Timor Leste. “Our armed forces personnel played a crucial role in ensuring security and this has been acknowledged by the United Nations,” he said. A total of 663 personnel from the Malaysian army and navy had served in the short stint.