

Village taken by surprise

INUNDATED: Four-metre-high waves crash through barrier and inundate homes

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“**I** THOUGHT the loud bang we heard was from a blown tyre and only realised it was the sound of huge waves crashing through the wave barrier as the sea water gushed into our house,” said Che Mohd Noor Zainal Abiddin, 52, from Kampung Pengkalan Atap here.

The four-metre-high waves, which came with the high tide at 8pm on Sunday, took Noor and other residents in the village by surprise.

Most of them were watching television at the time and had no time to save their belongings.

Noor said his family ran to safety as water inundated their home. “We thought a tsunami had struck as the water had rushed in so suddenly.”

He ran outside and saw sea water

pouring in through a broken section of the wave barrier.

“I told my wife and three children to run to higher ground as I was afraid that we would all be swept away by the huge waves and strong current.”

The whole housing project was flooded and 196 victims from 41 families had to be evacuated to the village community hall.

Besut Welfare Department, police and Fire and Rescue Department personnel acted immediately and rescued the villagers. They cordoned off the beach front, as well.

Health, Unity and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman and Kuala Besut assemblyman Dr Abdul Rahman Mokhtar, who was in Kuala Terengganu to welcome home Tunku Mizan Zainal Abidin and Tunku Nur Zahirah, rushed back here.

He said it was fortunate that no one was hurt in the incident.



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