

Waves crash into homes



The sea reclaims: Villagers looking at a house that is left clinging to the edge after 5m waves rose past the barriers and washed the soil away in Kampung Tanjung Gelam. Three more homes nearby were also damaged.

37 evacuate as rough seas cause erosion in Terengganu

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KUALA NERUS: Huge waves caused severe erosion along the coastal stretch in Mengabang Telipot here – damaging several houses and forcing nine families to be evacuated.

The affected villagers, comprising 37 people from nine families, were from Kampung Tanjung Gelam and Kampung Tengah. They are staying with their relatives.

Terengganu Civil Defence Department deputy director (operations) Mejar Amirsarifudin Zalman said the residents of the coastal villages had been advised to stay alert.

“According to the Meteorological Department, coastal villagers can expect strong waves as high as 5m and winds up to 60kph,” he said yesterday.

Apart from the victims, other residents along the coastal areas are also living in fear as the waves had broken through the barriers.

Many families are undecided on whether to move out as they are concerned about their belongings.

Fisherman Abdullah Mat Isa, 52, from Kampung Tanjung Gelam whose house was partially destroyed, said the strong waves he saw yesterday were the worst in the 19 years he’d lived there.

“I was watching TV in the hall at about 5pm when I saw the waves getting stronger. At about 9.30pm, they were smashing against the kitchen wall. All of a sudden, the

kitchen wall collapsed,” he added.

Abdullah said his wife, Hani Awi, 45, and 18-year-old daughter ran out of the house, fearing that the house would collapse.

“We gathered all important documents and moved to a relative’s house,” he added.

Keropok seller Kamariah @ Iman Abu Bakar saw her processing barn destroyed by the strong waves.

The erosion caused by the waves also saw coconut trees along the beach uprooted.