Stores and eateries collapse into the sea

SWEPT AWAY: Owners of businesses suffer RM100,000 losses

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UMBLING down like a pack of cards, eight structures, and nine boats, were swept away into the sea after severe erosion of the sea bank caused them to collapse at a jetty in Kampung Seri Nelayan, Telok Gong, here yesterday.

Sani Harul, said witnesses saw the bank beneath the structures begin to give way at 2.15pm, shaking the foundation.

“At the time of the incident, high tide was approaching, thus eroding the soil on the banks.

“The premises consisting of four fishing equipment stores, three eateries and a fishing shop slowly sank into the waters before they were washed out to sea,” he said at the scene.

Sani said those inside the premises managed to escape in the nick of time, adding that losses were estimated at RM100,000.

He warned the villagers to stay away from the jetty as it might be unstable because of strong currents and rains.

Food stall owner, Rahimah Sameon, 60, was about to prepare fried rice for a customer when she heard a loud creaking sound under her stall.

“I panicked and ran off, warning the others at the same time, but I completely forgot to salvage my items.

“Everything has been swept into the sea now,” she said, adding that she lost a stove, two refrigerators, and chairs and tables.

Another victim, fisherman Sahanuddin Abdul Rahman, 42, said he was at his home, 250m away from the jetty, when the incident occurred.

“I rushed to the scene to find my store and stall no longer there. Only debris and wood were floating in the water.

“I was completely caught off guard as the day was clear. My colleagues, however, had told me the day before that the stalls were beginning to shake a little,” he said, adding that his losses were estimated at RM30,000.