

Blaze destroys kampung house in Balik Pulau

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GEORGETOWN: An early morning fire razed almost 80% of a double-storey house in Kampung Jalan Baru, Balik Pulau.

Housewife Zakiah Othman, 63, who was staying a few houses away, was shocked to see the house engulfed in flames at about 7.30am yesterday after she was alerted by neighbours.

"The house belongs to my mother-in-law but is vacant for now.

"My husband and his siblings were planning to give it to their younger brother.

"The family had wanted to renovate the house next month."

Zakiah said the incident reminded her of a fire which razed her own house some 29 years ago in the same village.

When contacted, the Fire and Rescue Department said it received a distress call at 7.26am and arrived at the scene six minutes later.

Eleven firemen were involved in the operation. The fire was brought under control at 7.48am and put out at 8.10am.



Morning inferno: A man helplessly watching the house going up in flames along Jalan Baru in Balik Pulau, Penang.
— CHRISTOPHER TAN/The Star