

Gush of wind as earth and trees give way

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helped to pull out Ismail, Intan Jasmin, Ilya Syamira, Shamir Izzat and Shazwan.

Ismail's house security guard Saiful Bahari Manaf, 27, who helped rescue the victims, said he had just reported for duty when the house lights were switched on for *sahur* (the last meal of the day before starting fast) at about 4.25am.

He said he felt a tremor and suddenly there was a loud rumble from the hill slopes nearby at about 4.30am.

"Suddenly there was a strong gush of wind and to my horror, I saw the earth and trees coming down the hill towards the house at high speed.

"I thought I was going to die but stayed calm and managed to leap towards the main gate when the debris hit the side of the house," he said.

He said there was dust everywhere and when it finally settled, he found that the whole house had collapsed.

"I did not know what to do as I heard people screaming from beneath the rubble. I immediately jumped over the electric gate and ran to the neighbour's house for help.

"I then returned and started digging through the rubble with my bare hands with the aid of several neighbours. We managed to rescue at least four people who were bruised and injured," he said.

Saiful said he heard Ismail's shout for help and upon checking, found that Ismail did not suffer any serious injuries.

He said he told Ismail to stay calm while he got help and tried to rescue the others who were still trapped.

"Suddenly I heard a baby crying and immediately got several neighbours to help and we managed to rescue Ismail's daughter and granddaughter.

"Shortly after, the Fire and Rescue Department personnel arrived and rescued two other grandchildren and a son-in-law of Ismail," he said, adding that the first two children to be rescued were Ilya and Shamsir.

Neighbour Raja Alawiyah Raja Idris, who called the police, said she was sleeping when she heard a loud rumble from her house next door.

"I was awakened and heard shouts of people asking me to call for help.

"When I went out I was shocked to find Tan Sri's (Ismail) house had collapsed

and immediately called out to Tan Sri's daughters to see if anyone was still alive.

"I was relieved when some of the occupants responded saying that they were fine but were trapped," she said.

She said she and her son immediately helped the security guards to rescue the four.

Zaradina's mother Jamailah Selamat, who was also at the scene, said: "I could not believe my eyes when I saw there was nothing left of the bungalow."

She said she received a telephone call at about 5.10am and rushed to the house only to find that it was no longer there.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the scene of the disaster to observe the search-and-rescue operations.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived at 5pm, spent 30 minutes at the site and was briefed on the operation by Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk Mohamed Noor Hamat.

Also present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.