

## **60 schools in Gulu face closure over lightning**

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By Cissy Makumbi Posted Friday,

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Gulu District authorities have threatened to close over 60 primary schools without lightning arresters over fear for the safety of 6,000 pupils.

The District Education Officer, the Rev. Vincent Ocheng Ochen, said since 2008, only 50 schools built under the School Facility Grant, Peace Recovery and Development Plan and other development partners have installed lightning arresters.

He added that only a handful of schools built before 2008 have lightning arresters. "The affected schools under the UPE programme number about 113," he said. Mr Ocheng said parents will be forced to buy shoes for their children as a safety measure.

The district is also sourcing funds to fix lightning arresters in schools. Recently, several schools in the district have been struck by lightning, injuring pupils. Lightning recently killed 17 pupils and a teacher in Kiryandongo District. Country wide, over 40 people have been killed by lightning in the last three weeks.