

Lightning Kills 4 Pupils, Injures 5 in Hoima Municipality [Uganda]

BYKAMPALA POST

POSTED ON OCTOBER 20, 2017

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<https://kampalapost.com/content/news/lightning-kills-4-pupils-injures-5-hoima-municipality>



Hoima Municipality Town Clerk, Mr. James Luyimbazi and the District Education Officer, Godfrey Sserwanja visiting the admitted pupils on Thursday evening. Photo by Johnbosco Tugume.

The lightning struck St Prisca Primary school located in Nyarugadu cell, Kiduuma ward, Busiisi Division Hoima municipality, Hoima district.

Four primary pupils have died while five others are hospitalized after lightning struck their school on Thursday afternoon in Hoima municipality.

The lightning struck St Prisca Primary School located in Nyarugadu cell, Kiduuma ward, Busiisi Division Hoima municipality, Hoima district.

The deceased have been identified as Evelyn Kasimere a primary four pupil, Macklin Kusemererwa (P6), Jackeline Karungi (P5) and Diana Kusiima (P6).

Those injured and hospitalized at Hoima Regional Referral Hospital include; 14 year old Steven Asimwe (P5), 11 year old Jorine Kusemererwa (P3), Racheal Atugonza (P6) and Enid Basemera (P6) and another who could not be readily identified.

Three pupils died on spot while another one was pronounced on arrival at the hospital.

Hope Florence, a teacher at the school said the incident occurred during lunch time at around 1:00pm. She explained that the pupils had converged in primary six class to take shelter during a downpour when lightning struck the class.

Stevenson Agamba, the hospital administrator regretted the incident saying the injured students are in a stable condition.

By Thursday evening, parents and relatives of the aggrieved families were flocking Hoima hospital in a somber mood.

The Hoima District security committee chairman and residence District Commissioner has directed private school directors to install lightening arresters in their schools.

The incident comes less than a month after lightning struck Kifumura government aided primary school in Buhanka sub-county, Hoima district injuring at least 24 pupils.

In June 2011, lightning struck Runyanya Primary School in the Masindi killing 18 children and their teacher.