

Lightning kills one, injures 27, Uganda

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The lightning carnage continues unabated in the country with the latest being a Monday evening strike that killed one person in Moroto and left 27 pupils of Camgweng Primary School in Kitgum District hospitalised. In Moroto District, lightning struck Rupa Sub-county on Monday, killing Paul Lokol, 15, who was herding cattle at 2pm.

Wrong shelter According to witnesses, the deceased took shelter under a tree when it started to rain and was struck by lightning. The strike in Moroto comes barely a week after neighbouring Kotido District was hit, killing one pupil of Army Primary School and injuring another.

The Karamoja sub-region police spokesperson, Mr George Obia, said they were informed of the incident a day later. "These people here didn't inform us. We learnt of the incident after they had already buried the deceased," he said.

In Kitgum, one of the victims, Christopher Okema, a teacher at Camgweng Primary School, said the incident happened at 3:30pm during a downpour as he was conducting a lesson.

He said at least 48 pupils were struck, adding that 27 pupils who sustained serious injuries were taken to Kitgum Hospital where they are currently receiving medication.

Most of the victims were pupils in Primary Four and Five. Another teacher, Mr Michael Okot, said the condition of the pupils is improving.

This was the second incident in the district in less than a week. Last week, a 25-year-old woman was hospitalised after sustaining injuries from a lightning strike. On Sunday, several pupils were injured in Hoima and Kibaale districts when they were struck by lightning.