

Lightning kills brothers in double strike (South Africa)

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TWO brothers of Kasalu village in Chikumbi area have died after being struck by lightning. The incident happened on Thursday between 18:00 hours and 19:00 hours during a downpour. And in a similar incident, two brothers of Muyobe settlement in Monze, Southern Province, were on Thursday evening struck dead by lightning, which also left their 42-year-old mother with serious burns.

Lusaka Province commissioner of police Lemmy Kajoba confirmed the death of the brothers in an interview yesterday and named them as Mpangani Banda, 23, and Chanda Banda, 21. "The two brothers were struck by lightning during the heavy rains whilst in the asbestos-roofed house," Mr Kajoba said.

He said after the rains, the relatives noted some smoke coming out from the house and decided to check. Mr Kajoba said the two bodies were found lying on the floor naked with their skins peeled off adding that they suffered 100 percent burns.

"Police from Kabangwe visited the scene and secured the place, awaiting postmortem to be conducted on the scene since the bodies are in a bad state," Mr Kajoba said. In the Monze incident the lightning, which struck around 19:00 hours, threw the two brothers and their mother out of the hut and gutted the grass-thatched house to ashes.

Southern Province deputy commissioner of police Milner Muyambango confirmed the incident yesterday and identified the deceased as Choobe Choobe, a 19-year-old Grade Eleven pupil at Monze Secondary School, and Barrack Mainza, 25, all of Muyobe settlement farm number 11. Mr Muyambango identified the mother as Fiona Chinungwe, who was struck by the lightning as she was preparing supper for her family. He said the woman is nursing serious lightning burns in Monze Mission Hospital.