**Lightning strikes Arua city teenager dead**

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**Lightning strikes have this year claimed over five lives around the country.**

ARUA - **A lightning strike at Kebir Cell, Kenya Ward in Arua city's central division has left a 16-year-old boy dead.**

The deceased, Sabir, had reportedly gone to visit his three friends when the thunderbolt struck him dead.

However, the three were unhurt during the incident that happened on the evening of Monday, September 4, 2023, during a drizzle that eventually culminated into heavy rain.

Atiku Juma Abdu One of the survivors, on Tuesday, said the incident happened at about 4:00pm: “The deceased asked us to move to the house where the incident happened, as we moved, he started washing his legs only to realize that he was struck by lightning and we all fell down, after gaining my conscious I ran to the LC1 chairperson to inform him about the incident".

Haila Hillua, one of the residents, said the deceased was pronounced dead on arrival at Arua Regional Referral Hospital.

 Area LC1 chairperson Musa Alega said he was saddened by the incident.

***Some of the residents of Kebir cell in Kenya ward behind the house were the deceased was striked. (Credit: Johnpaul Opio)***

**Second strike in three years**

This is not the first time lightning has struck people in Arua city, In August 2020, lightning killed 10 boys at a football pitch in Gbulukua cell, Ayivu division.

The boys aged between 13 and 15 were playing football when heavy rain forced them to take refuge in a nearby grass-thatched house, which was later struck by lightning.

**Other strikes around the country this year**

Lightning strikes have this year claimed over five lives around the country.

On March 16, 2023, two members of the same family in Rukungiri district died on the spot after they were struck by lightning.

Kigezi region Police spokesman Elly Maate identified the victims as Enoth Tukwasibwe, 30 and his mother, Jolly Baryakabuza, 75, both residents of Keita Village in Nyabitete Parish, Bugangari sub-county.

On March 12, 2023, residents of Rwamuyoora village in Rubanda district, western Uganda were gripped with fear and shock after lightning killed three people: A father and his two sons.

The incident happened during an afternoon downpour at Rwamuyora cell, Nyarurambi parish, Muko sub-county.

According to a statement released by Kigezi region Police spokesperson Elly Maate, the incident occurred at about 2:00pm as Ambrose Kanunu, 35, was in the main house with his two sons identified as Justus Asiimwe, 7 and Arnold Habomugisha, 5.

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