

## **14 lightning victims discharged from Kiryandongo Hospital, Uganda**

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Kiryandongo/ Kampala

Fourteen victims of Tuesday's tragic lightning strike in Kiryandongo District have been discharged from hospital where they spent two days receiving treatment for various injuries. The development came as lawmakers across the political divide pressed the government to compensate families that lost their dear ones.

Education Minister Jessica Alupo informed Parliament in a statement that the government had directed all head teachers across the country to ensure that lightning conductors are installed on all their school buildings. Her comments follow admission by the government that the lack of lightning conductors was part of the immediate cause of death in many of the districts hit.

In just one week, 31 people have died following a spate of bolt of lightning across the country but the biggest devastation occurred at Runyanya Primary School in Kiryandongo District on Tuesday when 19 people were killed.

Dr Jimmy Eyiiga, the Kiryandongo Hospital Medical Superintendent, told Daily Monitor yesterday that all the discharged victims were in a stable condition. "I really commend the medical team for the good job done during these two days," he said.

Discharged Dr Eyiiga said six of the 15 children who had been admitted to Mulago Hospital had also been discharged by yesterday morning. By last evening, 11-year-old Mutalibu Waninda, a primary four pupil, was the only victim still admitted to Kiryandongo Hospital. District authorities admitted that burial ceremonies for children who perished in Tuesday's attack were ending by last evening.

In Parliament, Minister Alupo faced a tortuous time defending her statement after several MPs said the government had offered little to aid bereaved families or protect its citizens. "The statement is not embracing all the issues we want to hear about, like compensation of those affected and the immediate response to the injured," said Kitgum MP Beatrice Anywar (FDC).