

## Lightning kills five people in Kole

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By Hudson Apunyo

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### In Summary

Tragedy. Lightning struck St. George, Barpii Adwong Catholic Church on Wednesday as a group of people were undergoing preparation for baptism.

Lightning has struck a Catholic Church in Kole District, killing five people and injuring five others.

The incident occurred in Apala Parish on Wednesday at 6pm when a group of people were undergoing training in Christian doctrine in preparation for their baptism at St. George, Barpii Adwong Catholic Church.

Four people died on the spot while another person died at Aber Hospital where the injured were taken for treatment.

The Kole District Chairman, Mr Peter Ocen, identified the dead as Geoffrey Okullo, a catechist, his pregnant wife Dorcus Okullo and Daniel Okello a 16-year-old Primary Seven Pupil of Barowo Primary School.

Others are Agnes Abalo, a 16-year old Primary Six pupil of Ogowang Adar Primary School and a girl only identified as Barbra, 6, the daughter of Yuventino Okwonga.

Mr Moses Okori, the Barpii Adwong Village secretary for defence, said the catechist and his wife were planting cassava near the church when it started raining and he took shelter in the church which was later struck by lightning.

Mr Ocen, who was visiting the bereaved families on Thursday, said the district has given each family Shs100, 000 for burial arrangements and treatment of those injured.

Last year lightning killed several people and injured many others across the country.

The Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Mr Musa Ecweru, recently attributed the many cases of lightning killing people to lack of lightning arresters in many public buildings.

“There are very many schools and brand new health centres which lack lightning arresters,” Mr Ecweru said.

According to Nature Network, a global scientific research body, lightning is formed in thunderstorms when liquid and ice particles above the freezing level collide and build up large electrical fields in the clouds.

**Previous cases**

**June 20, 2011:** Lightning strikes one person dead and injures eight others seriously in different places in Gulu District during a downpour.

**June 21, 2011:** Three pupils of Nawangoma Primary School in Budondo Sub-county, Jinja District are struck dead by lightning during an afternoon downpour. Eight other pupils sustain serious injuries.

**June 27, 2011:** Lightning strikes people at a funeral in Alebtong District, killing three and injuring 15 others.

**June 27, 2011:** At least 13 people are injured after being struck by lightning at Omoro Subcounty headquarters in Alebtong District.

**June 28, 2011:** Lightning killing 17 pupils and a student teacher at Runyanya Primary School in Kiryandongo District. At least 36 other pupils sustain serious injuries.