**26 dead after high-voltage power cable snaps in Congo market [Democratic Republic of the Congo]**

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By Reuters

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/26-dead-high-voltage-power-cable-snaps-congo-market-rcna14623>

“I share the immense pain of the families. My thoughts are also with all the injured,” Prime Minister Sama Lukonde said on Twitter.

Twenty-six people died on Wednesday after lightning struck a high-tension power cable on the outskirts of the Congolese capital [Kinshasa](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/-vaccinated-congo-fourth-covid-wave-floods-hospitals-rcna10032), causing it to snap and fall on houses and a market, the authorities said.

The victims included 24 women and two men, and another two people were seriously injured, [Democratic Republic of Congo](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/ebola-outbreak-kills-dozens-democratic-republic-congo-n1237690)’s government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said on Twitter.

Power cables frequently collapse in Kinshasa, a city of more than 13 million people with outdated infrastructure and informal neighbourhoods that sprawl into areas not intended for residential development.

Congo’s national association of architects said in a statement that the accident, which could have been avoided, was a consequence of a lack of respect of town-planning regulations under high-voltage electricity lines.

A statement from the national electricity company said the lightning strike occurred during a heavy storm on Wednesday morning. The company offered its condolences to the families.

“Women and men lost their lives by electrocution this morning in a terrible accident at the Matadi-Kibala market following the severing of a phase conductor caused by bad weather,” Prime Minister Sama Lukonde said on Twitter.