**Lightning kills 53 cattle (Uganda)**

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A total of 53 head of cattle were killed by lightning on Wednesday at Katosi in Kiganda sub-county, Mubende district.

The animals belonged to the assistant chief administrative officer of Mubende district, Denis Ssebunya.

Ssebunya said only 20 of his cattle survived on the farm. â€œI could not believe it. The trees remained standing and green but the cows underneath them died. It was not even a fierce storm,â€ he said.

On Thursday morning, Ssebunya proposed burying the cows. But the residents opted to bring in a traditional medicineman, who performed some rituals at the scene. They then skinned the animals and shared the meat.

No other property or animal was destroyed in the village by the lightening. Mubende Resident District Commissioner Stephen Nsubuga Bewaayo, who visited the farm, regretted the loss.

â€œIt is unfortunate. It is a great loss to the proprietor of this farm. We believe it is lightning and nothing else,â€ he said.

In a separate incident, 27 pupils of Karungi Primary School in Masha sub-county, Isingiro district sustained injuries when lightning struck their school on Wednesday.

The wounded, some in critical condition, were rushed to Mbarara referral hospital.

The headmaster of the school, Moses Kasozi, said they were struck by the lightning when they took shelter from rain in the classrooms in the early afternoon. He said the downpour lasted for almost one hour.

The pupils, who were visibly in agony at the hospital, were hit in the chest, legs, head, shoulders and some were vomiting.

Kasozi said Shallon Ainembabazi, Ivan Ariho, Proscovia Amumpaire and Sarah Nabukenya, all in Primary Six, were in critical conditions. The others, nine from Primary Three, seven from Primary Six, five from Primary Five, five from Primary Four and one from Primary Two, were steadily recovering.

He said the pupils were shocked, with some unable to walk or talk.

He said nothing was destroyed in the classrooms and other pupils were able to continue with their studies.

The incident comes hardly a month after lightning killed three children in Kyamuswa sub-county, Kalangala district. The children were part of a bigger group that had sought shelter under a veranda when lightning struck, killing them instantly.

Most schools in Uganda have not installed lightning conductors on buildings