**Lightning kills five cattle**

26 October

<https://mobile.igihe.com/amakuru/u-rwanda/article/nyagatare-inkuba-yakubise-inka-eshanu-zihita-zipfa-imvura-isenya-inzu-69>

-- translated/summarized by Citizen Reporter, Frank Shumbusho, Rwanda, with follow=up comments

On 27 October, Frank Shumbusho, Citizen Reporter from Rwanda wrote:
'The [Kinyarwanda report](https://mobile.igihe.com/amakuru/u-rwanda/article/nyagatare-inkuba-yakubise-inka-eshanu-zihita-zipfa-imvura-isenya-inzu-69) that I've just shared with you is for the lightning that struck in the evening of yesterday, Monday, 26 October 2020, under the heavy rain, killing 5 cows that belonged to one Samuel Muhutu. This incident happened in Karungi Village, Nyagatare Cell in Nyagatare District within the Eastern Province of Rwanda. It's also very important to note that in this area, or within most other parts of Rwanda, the death of a cow is mourned almost just like the death of human being, given the cultural, emotional and traditional beliefs that people here attach to cows. Also, cows are in some cases a major economic source for these peasants, something that explains how terrible a loss it is to them.
'How we can prevent this from happening again remains our great task. I thank you all, Frank'

*On 28 October, Frank reported:*

'While listening to some of the local radios, I heard one reporter affirming that this victim, "Mr Muhutu, who lost five cows as a result of lightning" is now isolated by his friends within his village because they think that the tragedy that's just happened to him is a curse from God, or a severe punishment from God, as a result of what might be his terrible deeds! This may sound funny to some people who know little about Sub-Saharan Africa, but the victim can really feel and experience this isolation, something that may affect him or her not only emotionally but economically as well.
'Speaking as a social worker, this isolation, which is almost always imposed on a lightning surviving victim, affects him or her so much that they can hardly fit into society or be able to make a living unless they move somewhere far from their villages. In some places like DRC, Togo, Benin, and Tanzania, these victims can even be killed, with their fellow peasants within the villages calling them witches or demons. Thus, their fate is sealed forever, making them suffer twice.
'I don't know, but ACLENet should see how the counselling to the surviving victims could be included amongst the packages that you advocate for! Frank'