**Lightning kills two pupils, injures 14 at Sheema school – Uganda**

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/lightning-kills-two-pupils-injures-14-at-sheema-school-5088746>

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*One of the pupils affected by the lightning strike at Rwengiri Primary School receives treatment at Bushenyi Medical Centre in Sheema Municipality. Photo by Hillary Twinamatsiko.*

By Hillary Twinamatsiko

Tragedy struck Rwengiri Primary School in Kigarama Sub-county, Sheema District on Monday afternoon when lightning killed two pupils and left 14 others injured during a heavy downpour.

The deceased have been identified as Isabellah Kemigisha, a Primary Three pupil, and Benson Bainomugisha, a Primary One pupil. The incident occurred at around 3:00 pm while lessons were still ongoing.

The Head Teacher of Rwengiri Primary School, Mr Benards Bangirana, confirmed the deaths and said the 14 surviving pupils were rushed to Bushenyi Medical Centre (BMC) in Sheema Municipality for treatment.

[[](https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/lightning-kills-teacher-injures-head-teacher-and-15-pupils-in-masaka-4988050)](https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/lightning-kills-teacher-injures-head-teacher-and-15-pupils-in-masaka-4988050)

“The lightning struck while lessons were in progress. One child died instantly at the school, and the second passed away at the hospital. The other 14 were mostly in shock but did not suffer serious injuries. They are currently receiving treatment at BMC,” Mr Bangirana said.

He recalled the horrifying scene that unfolded within minutes of the storm's onset.

“It started raining heavily with strong winds, thunder, and lightning. About 15 minutes in, terrified teachers rushed to my office saying pupils in the Primary One and Three blocks had been struck and were in critical condition,” he said.

The school immediately mobilized transport to get the injured pupils to hospital. Mr Bangirana praised the medical staff at BMC for responding swiftly, though one of the injured pupils succumbed later.

“We are devastated. This is the first time we have lost pupils to such a tragedy,” he added, noting that police had been informed and postmortems would be conducted at Kabwohe Health Centre IV.

Mr Bangirana also expressed gratitude to local leaders for their support.

“We thank Sheema District LCV Chairperson Ms Jemima Buhanda for donating two coffins, and Hon. Dr Elioda Tumwesigye for covering the medical costs of all the injured,” he said.

Mr Kenneth Nuwagiira Ruyongo, the District Councillor for Kigarama Sub-county, also commended the school staff for their quick action.

“It was shocking. Two children were struck dead, others were hurt. We thank God more lives were not lost, and I extend my condolences to the bereaved families,” he said.

Mr Nuwagiira urged parents not to lose faith in the school, which he said has a strong academic record. “This was a tragic accident that could happen anywhere. Let’s not let this discourage us. We should now work together to install lightning conductors in schools and other public institutions to avoid similar incidents in the future,” he added.

A teacher at the school, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the storm as unusually violent. “There was a deafening thunderclap. Minutes later, word spread that some pupils had been struck,” the teacher said.

Greater Bushenyi Police spokesperson SP Apollo Tayebwa confirmed the incident and said investigations were underway. “It’s true. Two pupils were confirmed dead after being struck by lightning. The 14 who were injured are receiving treatment and are out of danger. The bodies have been taken to Kabwohe Health Centre IV for postmortem,” SP Tayebwa said.

“As police, we stand with the families of the deceased in this difficult time,” he added.