**Lightning Strikes Again in Rutsiro: 76-Year-Old Man Killed Amid Heavy Rain – Rwanda**

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By Nshimiyimana Eric (translated by Frank Shumbusho)

A 76-year-old man, Aloys Hitimana, tragically lost his life on the evening of Monday, July 7 after being struck by lightning while seeking shelter during a heavy downpour in Rukingu Village, Mburamazi Cell, Murunda Sector.

The incident was confirmed by Ms. Jeannette Mukamana, the Executive Secretary of Murunda Sector, who expressed deep sorrow over the repeated lightning-related fatalities in the area.

This is not the first such tragedy in Rutsiro District this year. In April 2025, lightning also claimed the life of a 28-year-old woman, identified as Izabayo, while she was at home in Mushonyi Sector, another area within the same district.

Rutsiro District has consistently ranked as the most lightning-prone area in Rwanda, frequently recording severe strikes that result in death and injury. The repeated incidents have raised concerns among both residents and government authorities.

ACP Egide Mugwiza, Director General of Operations at the Ministry of Emergency Management, recently called for coordinated and joint interventions to address the rising threat of lightning, especially in rural communities. He noted that urban areas are generally better protected due to improved infrastructure and the presence of lightning protection systems, whereas rural communities remain highly vulnerable.

As Rwanda continues to face increasing risks from extreme weather, authorities emphasize the urgent need for improved public awareness, infrastructure upgrades, and preventive measures to minimize the devastating impacts of lightning across the country.

**Report translated and courtesy of Frank Shumbusho. Email** **tct2020@gmail.com**

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