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News

## Storm causes severe damage in Mozambique's Manhica

Maputo, Mozambique, 11/17 - A storm, accompanied by heavy rains, lightning, and strong winds killed one person, and injured another three in the central Mozambican province of Manica on Monday.

The storm also killed thousands of poultry, and destroyed around 300 houses, leaving their occupants homeless, reports Wednesday's issue of the Maputo daily "Noticias".

The most affected localities were Chigodore, Machipanda, and Matsinho, in the districts of Manica and Gondola. The man who died was struck by lightning in Machipanda. The same lightning strike also killed six goats.

One pupil was slightly injured while trying to dodge a sheet of zinc that was detached by the wind from the roof of his school and fell into a room where 40 pupils were writing exams at the Chibata primary school. Some other sheets of zinc from the same roof were thrown about 150 metres from the building.

The school director, Filipe Manera, told reporters that besides the damage to the school building and to his own residence, the storm, that lasted about 40 minutes, also destroyed about half the record files on the 1,327 students, while the other half were completely soaked, but he believes these may be recovered when dried.

A similar situation was reported at the Chigodore primary school, where reporters could not reach, but the local chief, Samuel Wachi, described it as "dramatic".

The Abilio Antunes agricultural company in Chibata lost 20,000 of its chickens when the roofs of most of the 90 poultry pavilions collapsed. The manager, Helena Antunes, estimated the losses at about 800 million meticaïs (26,500 US dollars).

Meanwhile, local authorities said that at least 100 houses, mostly made of flimsy materials, were completely destroyed by the storm in the locality of Chigodore, and another 200 met the same fate in the localities of Vanduzi, Matsinho, Messica, and Machipanda. The work to assess the full scale of the damage is still continuing.

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