

WEDDING DAY SHOCK [Botswana]

Posted by [FRANCINAH BAAITSE](#) on November 7, 2011 [15 Comments](#)

Lightning strikes spoil the occasion

ALL Hell broke loose in Mochudi last week Friday when lightening struck at a wedding party injuring the bride and two guests. Terrified crowds ran for cover when two men who had just slaughtered a cow, to be cooked at the wedding were hit by lightning and thrown into a pit full of cow dung from the beast's stomach. Eye witnesses told of several massive flashes and deafening bangs as bolts of lightning rocked preparations for the wedding of Tshokolo David Mpeo to Mmasoka Mogomotsi of Mochudi just a few hours before the bride and the groom could exchange their vows. Narrating the family's ordeal, the bride's mother, Wadikgang Mogomotsi said: "It all happened so fast. The lightning flashed and everybody ran for cover. I went into the house and I could hear peals of deep thunder and see streaks of lightening. A few moments later the rain stopped and Mmasoka (the bride) stood up to go outside, but the moment she touched the door handle, another lightning bolt struck, sending her flying onto the bed." And then panic set in as the bride started shaking uncontrollably and choking.

"It was scary. She vomited black stuff which we suspect was smoke from the lightning. I however believe it was good that she vomited it out because it looked like it could have otherwise poisoned her system," said the bride's elder brother, Khombo Mogomotsi. Molatlhegi Mogomotsi, an eye witness, who saw the two men being hit, said: "We were cleaning the intestines of the cow when suddenly the weather changed to a thunder storm. We were using a hose-pipe to draw water from the tap, so I walked to the tap to turn it off. Rakitla (a neighbour) was holding the hose-pipe for the other man who was handling the intestines. The next thing I remember is a loud bang and then I saw the two rolling in cow dung, inside the pit." The bride-to be was rushed to Deborah Relief Memorial hospital where she was treated for shock while the two men who sustained minor burns refused to be taken to the hospital. The groom said that the incident, although tragic was not an isolated occurrence because lightning struck across Mochudi village injuring scores of people on that particular Friday. "I had not yet arrived at the wedding venue from the cattle post when the incident happened. I was only told of the shocking news upon my arrival and I rushed to the hospital where I found out that there were many other people who were hit by lightning from different places in Mochudi. It was not an isolated case," Mpeo said.

Moments after Mmasoka's hospital admission, another bride to be was also admitted with injuries following a car crash caused by the violent thunderstorms in Mochudi on her way to Palapye for her wedding the next day. The Isuzu twin cab in which she was travelling smashed into a tree just outside Mochudi and spoilt her wedding gown and cake, Mochudi police revealed. Mochudi Police station Commander, Gagogosha Onneetse, explained that the driver lost control of the vehicle during the stormy weather and veered off the road. "She was going to Palapye for her wedding which was to be held the next morning. The accident happened Friday late afternoon," Onneetse said.

HOW TO AVOID LIGHTNING

If you want to watch the storm rage outside from the safety of your living room, go right ahead. But keep your distance from windows and doors, particularly those made of metal. Avoid using electrical devices, plumbing and metallic items. The shower is also one of the last places you should be during a storm. If lightning strikes the building, it could travel through the plumbing and deliver a charge. Stay away from water. If you need to freshen up, wait for the storm to pass. Hair dryers, electric shavers and electric toothbrushes are all off-limits during a storm, experts say. In your rush to escape the storm, stay away from wired appliances such as doorbells, on or near the outside of the building. Lightning can travel through the electrical wiring and shock you.

Source ABC news