**KALEHE TERRITORY, SOUTH KIVU PROVINCE/DR CONGO: ONE DEAD AND THREE INJURED AFTER LIGHTNING STRIKE IN RUHUNDE - DRC**

A violent storm hit the village of Ruhunde , in the Mbinga -Nord Group, Kalehe Territory (South Kivu) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, causing the death of one person and leaving three seriously injured, on the night of Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 July 2025.

According to local sources, lightning struck the area where several people had been staying during the rain. The victims, all from the local community, were reportedly surprised by the intensity of the storm.

Some of the injured suffered significant burns and were rushed to a local health center for medical treatment. Their condition remains worrying, according to reports gathered on the scene.

The local population, shocked, denounces the lack of means of protection against climatic hazards in this isolated area.

Voices are being raised to call for prevention and awareness-raising actions on the risks associated with storms, particularly in rural areas lacking suitable infrastructure.

Social actors from the Mbinga -Nord Group expressed their compassion to the affected families and called for solidarity during this difficult time.

This tragic incident comes as the Kalehe Territory , South Kivu Province in DR Congo, regularly faces extreme weather events, exacerbated by climate change and increasing deforestation of the surrounding hills.