# 18 Kayunga students discharged after lightning strike - Uganda

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By Fred Muzaale

Eighteen students of Ndeeba Secondary School in Kayunga District were rushed to Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital on Monday evening after being struck by lightning during downpour.

The incident occurred at approximately 3:00pm, as students were either seated in classrooms or on the verandah at the government school.

According to the school’s head teacher, Apollo Lyadda, 17 girls and one boy were the victims.

The boy sustained minor burns and is recovering, while the others were in shock. All students' lives were out of danger by the morning.

Lyadda confirmed that they were discharged from the hospital but would continue receiving treatment at home.

Lyadda attributed the incident to the school’s inadequate lightning protection system.

"We have only two lightning arresters at the school, while we have many buildings that seem to make them ineffective," he said.

To prevent similar incidents in the future, the school plans to procure additional lightning arresters.

A health worker at Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital confirmed that none of the students sustained life-threatening injuries, but all had been treated for shock and minor burns.

**Classroom shortage adds to the problem**
Lyadda also pointed out that the school’s infrastructure is lacking.

“Due to a shortage of classrooms, some students are forced to sit outside during lessons, increasing their vulnerability during storms.”

He emphasized that the school needs three more classrooms to address the space issues.
Rehema Namulondo, the district female councillor for Kayunga Town Council, accused district authorities of misappropriating Shs500 million allocated for the construction of classrooms at the school.

This claim was, however, denied by district chairman Andrew Muwonge, who refuted the accusations.