

Lightning kills three in Chipinge

OBEY MANAYITI | HARARE - Jan 05 2011 19:14

Three people were killed by lightning in Chipinge last week, in separate incidents.

In one of the incidents, the victim's husband and three children sustained injuries after the hut they were in caught fire, while another person was struck ploughing in his field and yet another was killed after seeking shelter under a tree from the rains on her way home.

Chipinge is one of the districts in Zimbabwe where superstitious beliefs, especially associated with witchcraft and lightning, are rife.

Manicaland police spokesperson Inspector Brian Makomeke confirmed in an interview with NewsDay yesterday the three had been struck on December 30 and 31.

"Mary Simango (40) was struck and killed by lightning as she was sitting in her bedroom hut along with her husband Albert Simango (51) and their three children," Makomeke said.

"What happened is that their bedroom hut was burnt to ashes as Mary got struck by the bolt. "The three children sustained considerable injuries and they were rushed to Mt Selinda Hospital in Chipinge where they were admitted."

The incident happened at Village A1 in the Tazviona area in Chipinge.

In a separate incident but in the same district, 21-year-old Florence Magaha was killed by a lightning bolt while sitting under a tree where she had sought shelter from heavy rains that caught her as she was walking on a footpath.

Her body was discovered by a fellow villager, David Masuku, who then made a police report. On the same day a 36-year-old man, Elias Muchaendayo of Gwinji village in Chief Musikavanhu area, was struck by lightning while ploughing in his field.

2011 JAN.

F 40
M 51 ① 1 KILLED, 3 INJURED
HUT

F 21 ② 1 KILLED
UNDER TREE ON FOOTPATH

M 36 ③ 1 KILLED
AG.