

Namibia: Two More Children Struck By Lightning

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Oshakati — Lightning earlier this week fatally struck two more children in the Ohangwena Region, bringing the number of children killed by lightning in Ohangwena since the beginning of the rainy season to eight.

The teenagers were struck in their sleeping hut at Egongo Village of Epembe Constituency. It is alleged that the children ran into their hut at the home of Egongo village headman, Sakaria Ekanka, when they realised that it was raining heavily. The hut was instantly struck by the lightning and burst into flames. The children, identified as Anna Shitana Imene (15), and Justina Ndapwa Ekanka (14), died in the hut. Ohangwena Police Spokesperson Abner Kaume Itumba confirmed the incident.

In November last year, four children at Emanyana and Endola villages died after they were struck by a bolt of lightning while coming from school. The first incident took place at Endola village when two boys and four girls, all Grade 2 learners at Endola Primary School, ran into a hut. While they were in the hut, lightning struck, killing both boys. The girls were rushed to Oshakati Intermediate Hospital.

A few days later two more children, a boy and a girl were also struck by lightning. They were also on their way from school when they decided to run to a nearby house to take cover from the rain. They were stuck before they could reach the house.

Apart from six children from Ohangwena Region, two more children were reportedly struck by lightning and died at Onayena in Oshikoto Region. New Era understands that an adult male was also hospitalised at Eenhana State Hospital after he was struck by lightning.

Meanwhile, Ohangwena police are investigating the death of a security guard who was found dead at Green World Complex in Eenhana. The deceased, identified as 23-year-old Michael Shilongo, was allegedly found by employees at the shopping complex on Monday morning. He had stains of blood on the head. According to Itumba, police are investigating the cause of his death. "We don't know exactly what killed him. He normally works on the first floor but his body was found on the ground floor. Maybe he fell or he was struck by lightning, investigations in the matter will reveal what caused his death," said Itumba.