**Rundu VTC to build graves for three lightning victims - Namibia**<https://www.namibian.com.na/rundu-vtc-to-build-graves-for-three-lightning-victims/>

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By Matthew Palata

Prime minister Elijah Ngurare has engaged the education ministry to have the Rundu Vocational Training Centre (RVTC) build the graves for three children killed by lightning at Katenture, a village in the Kavango East region.

The RVTC is also expected to construct a permanent shelter for the children’s affected family members.

Ngurare expressed his appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by the Ministry of Education to entrust the RVTC to render assistance.
A lightning strike ended the lives of the children earlier this month.

The victims, who lived in the same homestead, were identified as Frans Thinyemba (13), Matamu Nyambi (4) and Folka Dinyando Kathumbi (5).

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) spokesperson Rhingo Mutambo in a statement said the prime minister was grateful about the in-house intervention by RVTC trainees as they provide an impetus to future emergency interventions.

“It has taken deliberate approaches to ensure that local youth skills are harnessed and that employment creation and youth empowerment is realised,” Mutambo said. ​

He added that the government continues to appreciate the role played by the private sector.

The government will going forward take this approach to make use of skilled youth from vocational education centres and the National Youth Service to serve as first respondents to address the needs caused by natural disasters. ​

“On behalf of the government of the Republic of Namibia, the prime minister wishes to once again extend his heartfelt condolences to the affected family as well as to appreciate all stakeholders for their indelible support towards the affected family,” Mutambo noted.