

LIGHTNING KILLS 13

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KWEEN.

Lightning struck at a football match at Kere Primary School grounds in Kween District last Tuesday evening, killing seven people while six others were injured and are admitted.

Police confirmed that six people of Kere and Kwosir villages in Kwosir Sub-county in Kween District were admitted with serious injuries, and arrangements had been made to transport some of them to Mbale regional hospital by last night.

One of the survivors, Mr Nathan Cherukut, said the incident happened at about 4.50pm at the climax of a football game where people had braved the rains to watch the match between Kwosir and Kere villages.

Mr Yasin Siwa, a witness told Daily Monitor that the deceased were watching the match when the lightning struck.

“The match was on, although it was drizzling. The players and spectators continued with the game. Then lightning struck once and left seven dead and others injured,” Mr Siwa, said.

The Sipi region police commander, Mr James Ruhweza, said the survivors were rushed to Kapchorwa Hospital and would later be transferred to Mbale Referral Hospital for treatment.

According to Mr Samson Araptuni, a resident in Chemwania, one of the survivors’ right side of the body is paralysed.

The devastation is by far the biggest since the rainstorms descended on the Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo districts.

The LC5 chairman for Kween, Mr George Machinjaki, said the district council will come up with a comprehensive statement on the tragedy.

Mr Ruhweza, added that lightning also hit Chemwania village, killing three residents who were on their way back home in the evening and one of their colleagues was severely injured. In a similar incident, in Lakerekere village in Palabek- Gem Sub-county in Lamwo District on Monday afternoon, lightning struck and killed three people, injuring two others.