**4 killed by lightning strike in western Tanzania**

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 KIGOMA, Tanzania, Dec. 20 (Xinhua) -- At least four people were killed and eight others injured by a lightning strike Tuesday night in Kibondo District of Kigoma Region, western Tanzania, the police confirmed on Wednesday.

Philemon Makungu, the Kigoma regional police commander, said the victims were struck by lightning at 7:30 p.m., local time, in the village of Buyezi, leaving four dead and eight injured.

"The victims were struck while they were in a restaurant where they had gathered to protect themselves from a heavy downpour," Makungu told a news conference in Kigoma-Ujiji Municipality on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

On Dec. 3, six people were killed and five others injured in a lightning strike in Masasi District of Mtwara Region in southern Tanzania.

Loutery Kanoni, the Masasi district commissioner, said the victims were struck by lightning as they gathered for traditional rites. ■