

LETTERS

Take strict measures to guard against lightning in schools

EDITOR: It was very sad to lose five pupils recently when they were struck by lightning. The incident happened at Kabyuma Primary School in Kitenga sub-county in Mubende district where P3 and P4 children were studying in a temporary structure supported by poles and iron sheets. About 20 pupils survived with severe injuries were rushed to Mubende Hospital.

In order to mitigate further calamities, all key stakeholders, should proactively put in place preventive measures to help reduce

The National Council for Children (NCC) wishes to suggest the following preventive measures:

- The Ministry of Education together with district local governments should jointly scale up a mandatory routine exercise in monitoring and carrying out strict surveillance on quality standards of all schools especially the up-country community pre-primary (nursery/daycare centres) and the UPE primary schools to ensure their structures are habitable. If their standards are found to be wanting

held responsible.

- Teachers should sensitise pupils about precautionary measures against possible lightning strikes. For example, they should avoid taking shelter under trees during rain; not play in the open school premises when it is raining and ensure they wear shoes at school.

- School administrators should ensure schools are built to required standards if they are allowed to operate. Buildings must have lightning arrestors and schools must devise means of mobilising resources

- Pupils should be guided to act responsibly and follow the instructions for their protection.

Finally, school management committees, especially the inspectors of schools at all levels should design strategies that will strengthen investigation, inspection, coordination and follow-up mechanism to fast-track the assessment of schools' conformity to quality standards.

Martin Kiiza
Secretary General,
National Council for Children

WRITE TO US:

Letters Editor, P. O. Box 100, Kampala, or email to letters@newvision.co.ug. Letters must be signed and precise. You can also send photos or SMS to 0772 3338 3338

LETTER OF THE DAY