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# PUPIL'S SHOCKING DEATH!



Parents of Caleb Motshabi Primary School pupils in the Free State wanted assurance from the circuit manager of the Motheo District, Bulane Kaneli (inset), that their children will be safe in school.

## Parents worry about kids' safety

By JOSEPH MOKOALEDI

**THE tragic death of grade 1 pupil Motlatsi Motsetse has left parents questioning their kids' safety.**

The eight-year-old accidentally hanged himself while trying to escape from a locked mobile toilet at Caleb Motshabi Primary School in Bloemfontein, Free State, on Friday, 16 September.

The little boy tried to climb out of the window after the door was locked by another pupil but his head got stuck in the frame after he had squeezed his body through. *Daily Sun* published the story, headlined: Motlatsi couldn't escape death, on Monday 19 September.

At a meeting held on the school premises on Sunday, 18 September, parents told officials from the provincial education

department that the tragedy would not have happened if the school had proper toilets.

Concerned parent Tebogo Matshidiso (42) said: "We have complained about the safety of the mobile toilets, so the department should take full responsibility for the pupil's death. The incident is the result of ignorance, arrogance and recklessness."

A woman (54) said her granddaughter told her the kids played in the mobile toilets, which was not safe.

Thabiso Mokatsi, speaking on behalf of Motlatsi's family, said they had many questions.

"We were told he was found by Expanded Public Works Programme

workers who were on the schoolyard, but we don't know what happened before he got trapped.

"The ambulance only came after three hours, so was the boy alive during this time? We are hurt and devastated, so we need a proper explanation," he said.

Provincial education spokesman Howard Ndaba, who was with the Motheo District Municipality's circuit manager Bulane Kaneli, said they would find Good Samaritans to help the family with the funeral.

"So far, the responses we have received have been positive. We will do our best to assist wherever we can," said Ndaba. The parents also wanted assurance from Kaneli that their children would be safe.

However, Ndaba said the department acknowledged their concerns and would respond as soon as possible.

