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HEATWAVE LEADS TO NEO'S DEATH!



Neo Nthebe drowned at a vandalised sewage pump station in Sebokeng, Vaal while trying to cool off with friends. Photo by Tumelo Mofokeng

By TUMELO MOFOKENG

AS the heatwave hit Gauteng last week, a 16-year-old boy drowned inside a vandalised sewerage pump station in Sebokeng zone 20 in the Vaal on Thursday afternoon, 5 October 2023.

Six boys between the ages 14 and 16 went to a sewerage pump station to cool off but sadly Neo Nthebe (16) from Evaton drowned from the raw sewage and was declared dead by paramedics.

Neo didn't know death was waiting

The grade 10 pupil from Jordan Secondary School in Evaton was visiting his aunt in Polokong when he and a group

of friends decided to go swimming inside the sewerage pump station.

It's alleged that while the friends were swimming, Neo got stuck inside and was unable to get out. Paramedics had to retrieve his body, which was trapped.

One of Neo's friends told *Daily Sun* it was hot and they were bored and wanted to cool off.

He said as there were no swimming pools in their kasi, they decided to go to the pump station. He said nothing could have prepared them for what happened to Neo.

Family is left devastated

His sister Lindiwe Nthebe said she was

still in disbelief regarding the incident that took her brother's life.

"I can't believe that my brother is gone. As a family, we are devastated about this whole incident because we never imagined something like this would happen.

"We now ask for space to process what has happened as it is still fresh," she said.

What officials are saying

The Emfuleni Local Municipality's MMC for Public Works, Tumi Mochawe, urged the community to stop vandalising government infrastructure.

She said the municipality would liaise with the Department of Water and Sanitation regarding the repairing of the sta-

tion.

Gauteng police spokeswoman Colonel Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi told *Daily Sun* Sebokeng police were called to Sebokeng zone 20 on Thursday afternoon, 5 October 2023.

"Upon their arrival, they found the lifeless body of a sixteen-year-old teenager. They were informed that he and his friends were swimming in a municipal pump station when the deceased drowned and died," she said.

Nevhuhulwi said paramedics were called and certified the teenager dead on the scene. She said the police opened an inquest docket.