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# Family worried over missing boy

Phemelo vanished on Saturday and has not been heard from since

OBAKENG MAJE

THE Modirwa family from Molelema village, near Taung, is dejected over a missing 13-year-old son.

Phemelo Modirwa went missing on Saturday last week and has not been seen or heard from since.

It is alleged that Phemelo had visited his friend, but failed to return home.

Taung Police Station cluster spokesperson, Sgt Tebogo Thebe said they have opened a case after Phemelo went missing.

"We can confirm that the police in Taung have opened a case after a 13-year-old boy went missing in Molelema village, near Taung on Saturday. It is alleged that the boy visited his friend, but failed to return home. Police request anyone with information regarding the boy's whereabouts to contact the nearest police station," Thebe said.

Phemelo's grandmother, Maria Leburu said the family is dejected. Leburu said the incident affected them so much that they couldn't even cope.

"We are depressed as a family because of what happened. We request anyone who knows what happened to Phemelo to come forward. Phemelo was our beacon of hope as we live in abject poverty as a family," Leburu said.

Man against Crime organisation in Molelema urged parents to look after their children. Maco chairperson, Gabothuse Phakedi said: "We have conducted a search in most houses. However, we cannot find the boy and it is heart-breaking. Taung continue to be the nest for criminal activities."

Meanwhile, hope of finding two missing girls in Bloemhof is fast fading away.

Matseleng Nteta, 7, and her friend, Rethabile Tshabadira, 3, who was residing at Boitumelong location, in Extension 5, Bloemhof went missing over four months ago. Both families said that they "lost hope" in the law enforcement authorities.

Maria Nteta, 28, who is the mother to Matseleng said: "We are still waiting for



**DISTRAUGHT:** Maria Nteta and Lenah Tshabadira are devastated after their two little girls went missing. PICTURE: OBAKENG MAJE

our children to come back home. However, we lost hope in the police because nothing positive comes out of investigations. It seems they have also hit dead end. I miss my daughter so much and I am looking for closure. I cannot cope during the night and wish I could do something about the matter."

Matseleng was playing along with her friend, Rethabile in the street before their disappearance. It is alleged that they went to buy sweets at the local shop, but never returned.

Rethabile's grandmother, Lenah Tshabadira, 49, said the police have failed them. She said the police did not put more effort in finding the children.

"Rethabile was a bubbly person and I urge anyone who has information regarding their whereabouts to contact police. The police took 48 hours to

intensify a search and I believe if they reacted earlier, we could have found them in time," she said.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said: "The investigations are still under way and police are working hard. It is untrue that police are dragging their feet in finding the missing girls. We urge anyone with any information to call Capt Sebolai on 072 505 3045."

South African Civic Organisation regional secretary in Dr Ruth Mompoti, Mika Moeti said: "We will work closely with police to ensure those perpetrators are caught.

"We cannot continue to live normal while we have missing children. They have families and it is wrong for monsters to do as they please within our communities." - Newsnote