



THIRD PRESS RELEASE - CATHERINE ROBSON CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
CENTRE - SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO

31 MAY 2017

Beginning

On Tuesday 2 May 2017 three girls disseminated specific accusation by means of a video recording on social media concerning Catherine Robson Child- and Youth Care Centre. Directly after the video had come to light, the incident was reported to the Department of Social Development by Danie Kruger, manager of this child- and youth care centre for an independent investigation concerning the distressing allegations. The conclusion reached by the investigating officers was made known on 30 May 2017, namely that:

- The allegations are false and that it was done under incitement of one of the girls' mother.

Cognizance was taken that the mother and the daughters involved had acknowledged their guilt in this respect and that a statement had already been made in the Vaalweekblad of 5 May 2017 and published on social media.

Substantiating evidence was put before the officers during the investigation in confirmation that the children involved had already made themselves guilty of unacceptable and uncontrollable behaviour for a considerable time, which adversely affect the other children in the centre.

The two oldest girls already were in the process of being placed back in their parents' care after their 18th birthdays (both during May). The decision took place after consultation with all parties involved. The specific children also refused to consent in writing, in accordance with the provisions in the Children's Act, to remain in the centre after turning eighteen. The 16-year-old girl who was involved in the incident is still in the centre's care.

The management of the centre expresses its satisfaction that the report indicated no irregularities on the part of the child and youth care centre. They do, however, lament the extremely negative effect brought about by the malicious defamation on social media.

As is the case with a multitude of other welfare organisations, the centre already finds itself under financial pressure and to a large degree it is dependent on donations and fund-raising efforts. Such allegations cause incalculable harm – not only to the child- and youth care centre, but also to the staff, management and other children who have no other refuge.

At Catherine Robson Child- and Youth Care Centre, management strives to provide each of the children placed in their care by the Children's Court the best possible residential and therapeutic care. Hence readers are earnestly requested to immediately report accusations or fake news of this sensational nature, to not disseminate it further, and to bring the falseness of such reports to the public's attention.

End

Released by:

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