

12 June 2025

Mr D. Phiri  
Senior State Prosecutor  
Kuruman Magistrate's Court  
Magistrate's Court Building  
Cnr Ben Malan and Seeding Road  
KURUMAN  
8460

By e-mail: Dphiri@justice.gov.za

Dear Mr Phiri

### **GRAVE CONCERNS REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HENDRIK VENTER MURDER CASE AND REQUEST FOR URGENT REMEDIAL ACTION**

AfriForum writes to you with deep concern and profound disappointment regarding the recent withdrawal of the murder case involving the late Mr Hendrik Venter (aged 81) of Kuruman, whose brutal killing shocked the local farming community and beyond. The removal of this case from the court roll – and the subsequent release of the accused – represents not only a procedural lapse, but a devastating failure of justice for the Venter family and the broader public.

Despite repeated assurances from senior members of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) that this matter would be treated with the gravity it deserves and escalated to the regional court, the case was withdrawn without opposition or explanation. The legal team representing the family on a watch brief, have confirmed a troubling chain of events marked by prosecutorial inaction, forensic delays, and the absence of Legal Aid representation on the day of the hearing – a situation to which the prosecution inexplicably raised no objection.

This development has compounded the trauma experienced by the Venter family and further eroded public trust in the justice system's ability to respond adequately to crimes of this nature. It is unacceptable that systemic inefficiencies and a lack of prosecutorial will, can result in the release of murder suspects and the suspension of justice.

AfriForum formally requests the following immediate interventions:

1. **This case must be reinstated onto the court roll without delay.**
2. **This matter must be transferred to the Regional Court in line with its seriousness.**
3. **The NPA must urgently review and report on the procedural and administrative failures that led to this breakdown.**

June 2024

**Address:** 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30

**Member Affairs – Email:** ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.

**Registration number:** 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

AfriForum stands ready to assist the NPA in any way possible, including engaging private forensic laboratories or providing legal support, to ensure this case proceeds efficiently and without further impediment.

We also request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss collaborative solutions aimed at preventing such miscarriages of justice in future, particularly in cases involving farm attacks which continue to plague rural communities.

Justice must not only be done — it must be seen to be done. The Venter family and all South Africans affected by similar tragedies, deserve a justice system that is responsive, competent, and above all, committed to upholding the rule of law.

We await your urgent response.

Kind regards



**Thomas van Dalen**  
**Regional Head: Northern Cape**  
**AfriForum**  
**Cell: 081 216 8066**  
**Email: [thomas.vandalen@afirforum.co.za](mailto:thomas.vandalen@afirforum.co.za)**