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## **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

### **Tribute to the Late Mr. Bouwer van Niekerk**

The League of Pros (LoP) – Lawyers Caucus expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends, colleagues, and the broader legal fraternity on the tragic passing of Mr. Bouwer van Niekerk, a respected attorney whose life was cut short in the line of duty.

We have learnt with profound shock and alarm of his slaying, allegedly linked to his professional work. This is not only a devastating personal loss to his loved ones but also a blow to the legal profession and to South Africa as a whole.

At LoP, our mandate is to celebrate professionals and champions of excellence who shape our society through service, integrity, and commitment. The legal profession is a demanding one, where opportunities are scarce and competition is intense. Yet, Mr. van Niekerk distinguished himself by rising to the occasion and excelling without compromise. His dedication to justice and his principled contribution to the rule of law remain an inspiration.

This tragic loss underscores the dangers faced by members of the legal fraternity, whose work is essential to upholding democracy, fairness, and the rights of all citizens. We emphasize that lawyers, as enforcers of justice, have the right to be protected, and we call on society and relevant authorities to ensure that such heinous acts are not tolerated.

The LoP Lawyers Caucus stands in solidarity with all South Africans, institutions, and individuals who denounce this crime and who are committed to safeguarding the independence and dignity of the legal profession.

To Mr. Bouwer van Niekerk, we say:

“Your work was not in vain. May your soul rest in peace.”

### **LEAGUE OF PROS – LAWYERS CAUCUS**

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