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AFRIFORUM'S Ernst Roets speaks during the media launch of his controversial book *Kill the Boer in Centurion*, Pretoria, yesterday.  
PICTURE: OUPA MOKOENA/AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA)

# 'Farm murders soar after hate speech'

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THE more people continue to sing *Kill the boer* or *Dubula ibhunu* (shoot the boer), the more farmers are brutally murdered.

This was the firm reply by AfriForum deputy chief executive Ernst Roets when he was asked if there was a proven correlation between farm murders and hate speech or songs.

Roets is the author of the controversial book *Kill the Boer*, which politicians have described as racist populism.

It was launched in Centurion, outside Pretoria, yesterday.

The book, according to Roets, claims that politicians and the government have been complicit in the proliferation of farm murders, which AfriForum believes are racially motivated.

Roets said there were reported cases in the book of people who had committed

farm murders and said that they had been influenced by the singing of songs such as *Kill the boer* or *Dubula ibhunu*.

In the book, it was stated that, after the singing of the song by late ANC Youth League leader Peter Mokaba in 1993, there was an increase of 135% in the murder of farmers.

It said Julius Malema sang *Dubula ibhunu* in 2010 and there was a 51% upsurge in farm murders.

"There is a very clear upward variance in farm attacks and farm murders after high-profile incidents of hate speech," Roets said.

During the first six months of last year, 157 farm attacks took place and 40 farm murders were committed. Since the start of this year, there have been 210 farm attacks and 33 murders, he said.

The EFF's Commander-in-Chief Malema was a public and influential leader openly

singing lyrics that incited violence towards an ethnic group, which constituted hate speech, he added.

AfriForum also asked that an independent commission of inquiry be set up to determine what the factors were that led to farm murders.

During the book launch, Roets played a recording in which a member of the 28 Prison Gang alleged that Malema went to see them in jail to talk about farm murders.

Roets also told of his own experience when a convicted farm murderer told him he was a member of the ANC's military wing uMkhonto weSizwe, and that the ANC had given him an order to murder a farmer.

Roets said these allegations must be viewed in a serious light and should be investigated thoroughly.

But, he said, the issue has not been investigated further.

He said AfriForum did not

claim that all farm murders were politically motivated, but it was gravely concerned that the political element was underplayed.

"Our analysis of five incidents of hate speech from high political leaders against farmers indicated that farm murders in the months following these incidents increased by an average of 74.8%."

The book reveals accounts of direct involvement of members of the ANC, and the police in particular, in the planning and execution of these attacks, according to Roets.

It is argued that a looming process of ethnic cleansing should be regarded as a serious threat and something to be prevented.

The book will be launched to the public tomorrow and will be available in bookshops soon.

Asked if he has received death threats about his book, Roets replied: "Too many."