

03 July 2025

African Network Information Center (AFRINIC)
% Mr. Gowtamsingh Dabee, FCCA ADIT MBA, Appointed Receiver

Re: Concerning Allegations Regarding AFRINIC's Board of Directors' Election

Dear Mr. Dabee,

I am in receipt of your 26 June 2025 letter regarding the concerning allegations regarding AFRINIC's Board of Directors' elections. As you are the official currently responsible for AFRINIC, an RIR recognized by ICANN, I cannot stress enough how important it is for you to engage constructively with the ICANN team. ICANN does not wish to be in an adversarial position to an RIR and we do not understand why you have positioned AFRINIC in this manner. Further, ICANN's engagement with AFRINIC (as an RIR recognized by ICANN) is not dependent upon leave of court. It is urgent and critical that AFRINIC maintain a more proactive and productive relationship with ICANN.

As I previously stated, ICANN's aim is to assure that AFRINIC remains in compliance with its obligations under [ICP-2](#), and remains an entity that is capable of responsibly managing the numbering resources with which it has been entrusted. AFRINIC's ability to maintain free and fair elections is just one way to demonstrate it remains capable of serving as an RIR with the support of and accountability to its membership. The other RIRs, through the Number Resource Organization (NRO) [confirm](#) that ICANN is acting in alignment with ICP-2. It is time to stop avoiding AFRINIC's broader responsibilities and to act in ways that restore trust.

The responses provided in your letter do not provide sufficient documentation to address the grave concerns expressed within ICANN's 25 June 2025 letter. The mere fact that the election was annulled does not address many of the questions posed to AFRINIC and does not provide documentation of how AFRINIC is maintaining the support of its membership, assuring all members impartial and equal treatment, and assuring that AFRINIC is acting independently from improper influence. Please recall that AFRINIC has an obligation to the entire African Internet Community, and not to any single resource member or group of influential resource members.

In light of your discovery of one forged power of attorney, a decision to annul the election process seems a logical first step to addressing the issues surrounding the election as designed and conducted. ICANN notes, however, that we have seen reports from multiple members regarding the fact that they too were concerned that invalid powers of attorney were being used on their behalf. The AFRINIC community deserves a transparent reporting of the full investigation that you have conducted on this serious and critical matter, including the extent of the investigation and the full findings.

We have also seen recent articles issued by a news platform, which we understand is funded by the CEO of Cloud Innovation Ltd (based on the Editor-in-Chief's communication to ICANN), that

maintain that only a single fraudulent power of attorney was discovered. ICANN is not aware of any public statement providing any particulars to the AFRINIC membership regarding any results of your investigation, which raises the question of how this media outlet has access to – and continuously restates – such information. As ICANN has previously explained, the election process has been run under the shadow of the perception of outsized influence by one member. The Supreme Court of Mauritius, on ICANN's application, has already ordered you to act to counter such perception. To further consider AFRINIC's neutrality and impartiality across its membership, ICANN has further questions to add to those posed on 25 June 2025:

o. Please describe the information that has been shared with or otherwise made available to the Number Resource Society, Number Resource Ltd, Cloud Innovation Ltd, or Blue Tech Wave Media or anyone acting on their behalf regarding the outcomes of your investigation.

p. Please identify all AFRINIC Resource Members that had representatives onsite at the place of the 23 June 2025 election during any time when the voting irregularity was being discovered or investigated.

ICANN considers that the ability for forged documents to be presented – even just one, if that happens to be the case – is but a symptom, and not the cause, of the compromised election process. We appreciate your note that you will “take on board all grievances raised by members to ensure proper, transparent, fair and free elections.” ICANN's concerns are focused in part on AFRINIC's ability to treat its members impartially and equally. The fact that you might perceive that a member is attempting to divert your mandate does not mean that the content of that member's complaint is invalid, untrue, or does not require your attention.¹

ICANN reiterates that it reserves all rights to initiate a compliance review of AFRINIC regarding areas of potential material non-compliance with ICP-2, without limitation. ICANN also reiterates that you remain on notice that you, and all others acting on your behalf or AFRINIC's behalf, are to diligently retain and scrupulously preserve all documentation, electronic records, communications, data, and any other relevant materials pertaining to these issues, and indeed the entirety of the election process, without exception, in anticipation of a formal compliance review. Failure to preserve such records will be viewed as a serious impediment to any future review and an indication of non-cooperation.

ICANN requests that you revisit the different communications that ICANN has sent to you, including our 7 March 2025 letter, the 6 June 2025 Notice, and 25 June 2025 letter, to identify if you have any questions regarding the relationship between ICANN and AFRINIC, and AFRINIC's relationship to the broader Internet community. I also request you to revisit the questions within our 25 June 2025 letter in light of AFRINIC's obligations under ICP-2. I also look forward to your prompt follow-up, as promised, on the status of AFRINIC's record keeping and backups. Please provide your further response, including to the two new questions in this letter, by close of business on 8 July 2025.

¹ ICANN notes your reference that ICANN is “surely [] fully aware” of the TISPA application for injunction and the conduct of the court proceedings therein. ICANN confirms that it did not collaborate with and was not involved in TISPA's application in any manner.

Last week, I was in attendance at the U.N.'s Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Lillestrøm, Norway, engaging with stakeholders from across the world, including representatives of governments, civil society, the technical community, the business community and more. The President of Mauritius presented remarks at the opening ceremony. The subject of restoring competent and legitimate management of AFRINIC through fair elections was a frequent topic in the hallways and is indeed a matter of global attention. I hope that AFRINIC can rise to the moment.

An idea that emerged during the IGF is securing the commitment of all RIRs to regularly deposit their registration data into escrow with trusted providers. The concept of data escrow is used to preserve other registration data related to the Internet's unique identifiers. An example of that is the [Registry Data Escrow Program](#) applicable to ICANN-Accredited Registrars. ICANN will be talking to all the RIRs about this issue, including AFRINIC. I am interested in learning your thoughts on whether AFRINIC would submit to an escrow program built with proper safeguards. ICANN reserves its right to publish this correspondence on its website as normal within ICANN's course of business.

Sincerely yours,



Kurt Erik Lindqvist
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

cc: The Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius
The Honourable Minister in Charge of ICT matters in the Republic of Mauritius
Tripti Sinha, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors
RIR CEOs
Kishna Dondee, Legal Officer, AFRINIC
AFRINIC Nomination Committee 2025
AFRINIC Election Committee 2025
John Jeffrey, General Counsel and Secretary, ICANN
John Crain, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, ICANN