

18 September 2025

Dear AFRINIC Board,

SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS' ASSOCIATION (SOUTH AFRICA)

The Internet Service Providers' Association (NPC) ("ISPA") is a recognised Industry Representative Body (IRB) in South Africa. A significant number of ISPA members are also AFRINIC members.

ISPA would like to congratulate you on your election to the AFRINIC Board, and thank you for your willingness to serve the community during this particularly difficult time. We would like to express our confidence in the Board's ability to tackle the significant challenges that remain ahead on the road to restoring AFRINIC's governance, and to offer ISPA's full support. Specifically, we offer our assistance with any engagements AFRINIC wishes to have with our common membership and the broader South African internet community.

From engagements with our membership the following have emerged as priorities for the South African community. We would like to humbly offer these requests from our combined membership, as items for the Board's immediate priorities.

A: Restore the regular operations of AFRINIC

1. Appoint a CEO and provide support to AFRINIC staff

A clear and obvious priority, and one also supported by the mandate of the Receiver, is the hiring of a CEO. However, staff support extends beyond that very necessary appointment.

AFRINIC staff have had to operate under adverse conditions and in a leadership vacuum for a significant period, and deserve to be commended for their efforts to maintain AFRINIC's day-to-day operations during this time.

As well as acting swiftly to appoint a CEO, we urge the Board to attend to any pending staff matters and to seek the guidance of AFRINIC's experienced staff on setting other priorities for the organisation.

2. Confirm the status of members who have joined AFRINIC since 19th September 2023.

ISPA notes the Receiver's position that the court ruling of 25th November 2024

prevented members who had joined since 19th September 2023 from voting in the recent election.

ISPA urges the Board to remedy the status of these recent members, and ensure that any necessary steps are taken to ensure that those members are given the same membership status and rights as AFRINIC's other members.

3. Establish a clear timeline for the calling of an Annual General Members' Meeting

ISPA believes that AFRINIC should hold an Annual General Members' Meeting (AGMM) as soon as is feasible, given that the organisation has not done so since 2022. However, we do not believe that the Board should be rushed into calling this meeting. We would prefer the publication of a timeline for an AGMM that provides all stakeholders with sufficient time to prepare.

The unusual nature of the recent elections make it likely that there will have to be some deviations from the AFRINIC By-laws in how the next AGMM is conducted. We urge the Board to carefully consider any deviations that may be necessary, to be transparent with the AFRINIC community about these, and to seek the condonation of any deviations from the courts, if necessary.

B: Restore and rebuild community trust in AFRINIC

4. Provide an update to the community on all pending litigation

ISPA notes with appreciation the recent efforts of AFRINIC staff to update the [list of pending court cases](#) on the AFRINIC website. However, we also note that there is a pending investigation into the affairs of the organisation by the Mauritian Executive, including various legal matters and the Receiver's conduct in handling them.

ISPA believes that once the Board has familiarised itself with the status of all pending legal matters, it would be beneficial to provide a report on such to the broader AFRINIC community, and we request that the Board consider doing so.

In particular, we request that the Board provide an update on progress with the 2019 criminal case against Mr. Byaruhanga for theft of AFRINIC resources.

5. Make public the list of potentially forged Power of Attorney letters

In his judgement¹ on 9th September 2025, Judge K. Bissoonauth noted the following admission by the Receiver's lawyer regarding the Power of Attorney letters submitted in the annulled June election:

"Mr M. Namdarkhan [...] submits that [...] one Power of Attorney was found forged, the nomination committee looked into the matter and found the same pattern of signatures."

¹ In the matter (of Tanzania Internet Service Providers Association vs African Network Information Centre (AfriNic) Ltd and Gowtamsingh Dabee (SC/COM/WRT/000657/2025).

This clearly indicates that the Receiver is aware of a number of potentially fraudulent Power of Attorney letters (PoAs). While the successfully concluded election made exclusive use of online voting, preventing the possible misuse of forged PoAs, ISPA understands that some of the PoAs claim to have a mandate to represent AFRINIC members until the end of 2026. Given this, ISPA remains gravely concerned that there could still be attempts to use forged PoAs in future AFRINIC meetings or in future elections.

ISPA is aware that the Mauritian authorities are already investigating this matter, but the Receiver's lack of transparency on the scope of the problem is a concern. We believe that it is important that a full list of PoAs that were presented in the June election should be made public, so that the relevant organisations can be made aware that they were the target of potentially fraudulent misrepresentation and can take appropriate action.

We strongly believe that this transparency is a critical defense against attempts to use forged PoAs again in the future, and we thus urge the Board to make the full list of PoAs public as soon as possible.

C: Recommit AFRINIC to playing a role in global internet governance

6. Support international internet governance initiatives

We believe that it would be appropriate for the newly elected Board to support any international internet governance initiatives aimed at securing AFRINIC's future. In particular, we would like to urge the Board to express its full support for ICANN's ICP-2 Review process.

Linked to this is the need for an investigation into steps that might be taken to protect AFRINIC from future lawfare, such as reconstituting AFRINIC as an international organisation. We suggest that the Board include such considerations and suitable consultation with AFRINIC's members on this topic in its overall strategy.

ISPA believes that the appointment of this AFRINIC Board marks a new, more positive chapter in the organisation's history, and we wish the members of the Board all the best for the future. We remain at your service to provide any assistance we can.

Yours sincerely,



Sasha Booth-Beharilal
ISPA Chairperson

