AFRINIC | NomCom 2026

PDP Co-Chair Selection

Nomination Committee 2026 — Full Report

AFRINIC-38 Public Policy Meeting | Hyatt Regency Cape Town | 18 November 2026

Presented by: **Ganesh Ramalingum** | Chairperson, Nomination Committee 2026

Members: **Solomon Dindi** - **Benjamin Prince** - **Prichard Chakadenga**

Context — The Call for Nominations

Why this process was initiated

AFRINIC's Policy Development Process (PDP) Co-Chairs are the procedural custodians of the community's policy development framework. Following the conclusion of the previous term, two Co-Chair seats became available for the 2026 cycle.

Pursuant to Clause 3.3 of the AFRINIC Consolidated Policy Manual and Article 11.2 of the AFRINIC Bylaws, the Nomination Committee (NomCom 2026) was mandated under Article 9 of the Bylaws to:

- Publish a Call for Nominations specifying eligibility criteria
- Receive, process, and verify all nominations submitted
- Prepare and publish a final slate of eligible candidates
- Present the slate to the PDWG at the PPM for consensus-based confirmation

Key Milestones

4 Feb 2026
Election Guidelines approved by Board

2 Oct 2026
Call for Nominations published

29 Oct 2026
Nomination period closed (23:59 UTC)

Oct – Nov 2026
Vetting & verification by NomCom

6 Nov 2026
Candidate list published (14:00 UTC)

18 Nov 2026
Selection at AFRINIC-38 PPM, Cape Town

Eligibility Rules — Section 6.3.4, Election Guidelines 2026

Board-approved 4 February 2026 | elections.afrinic.net/election-guidelines-2026 | Applied uniformly to all candidates

A

AFRINIC Service Region

Candidate must be a natural person of full legal capacity residing within any sub-region of the AFRINIC service region.

B

Age of Majority

Candidate must have attained the age of majority in their jurisdiction.

C

RPD Mailing List — Min. 3 Years Meaningful Engagement

Candidate must have been meaningfully active on AFRINIC's RPD mailing list (or any other RIR's equivalent) for a minimum aggregate of 3 years. Mere subscription does not count (Note 2 to the Guidelines).

D

At Least 2 AFRINIC Events in the Past 5 Years

Candidate must have participated in at least 2 AFRINIC events — including webinars, whether in person or virtual — within the past 5 years.

E

No Active Policy Proposal Authorship

Candidate must NOT be the author of any policy proposal that is currently under discussion. The NomCom applies this to all forms of authorship, including co-authorship.

F

Two Distinct Resource Members in Good Standing

Nomination must be supported by two (2) distinct Resource Members with current, paid-up membership at the time of nomination. The same entity may not serve as both nominator and seconder.

Applications Received — PDP Co-Chair 2026

7	5	2	1	4
Total Submissions	Unique Candidates	Duplicate Submissions	Found Eligible	Not Proceeded

Duplicate submissions: Theresa Dukumor submitted twice (IDs 546 & 629) and Dorothy Kwamboka Ogwang submitted twice (IDs 602 & 630). Per the Election Guidelines, only the last submission by each candidate was considered valid. Earlier submissions were set aside.

Five Unique Candidates — Assessment Summary

David Ezennia	Aboka Baya Sylvain	Theresa Dukumor	Mark James Elkins	Dorothy Kwamboka Ogwang
Nigeria	Cameroon	Nigeria	South Africa	Kenya
NOT RETAINED	ELIGIBLE	NOT RETAINED	NOT RETAINED	NOT RETAINED

Candidate 1 of 5 — David Ezennia

David Ezennia | Nigeria | Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)

Network Engineer — Project Manager, Client Operations

NOT RETAINED: Same organisation/person used as both nominator and seconder; RPD engagement vague and unsubstantiated; AFRINIC event participation unspecified

Background & Motivation

- Experienced Project Manager and Network Engineer at IXPN with self-described skills in client operations, process improvement, and stakeholder management.
- Motivation references contributions to Internet Exchange Point advancement, helping ISPs acquire IP resources and ASNs, and participation in online policy development conversations.

AFRINIC Event Participation (Criterion D)

- Stated as: 'AFRINIC webinars and IPv6 Certification Program.'
- No specific event names, dates, or reference links provided. Cannot be independently verified against the minimum of 2 AFRINIC events within the past 5 years.

RPD Mailing List Activity (Criterion C)

- Described as: 'proof reading and some technical round table discussion on the advancement of the IXP.'
- No archive links, no specific post titles, no dates, no threads cited. Activity level and duration cannot be independently verified.
- Does not constitute substantive, demonstrable contributions over a 3-year period as required by Section 6.3.4 and Note 2.

Nominator / Seconder (Criterion F) — CRITICAL

- Nominating organisation: Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria | Executive: David Ezennia (mje@ixp.net.ng)
- Seconding organisation: Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria | Executive: David Ezennia (d.ezennia@ixp.net.ng)
- Same individual, same organisation for both nominator and seconder. The guidelines require two (2) DISTINCT Resource Members. This is a fundamental eligibility failure.

Candidate 2 of 5 — Theresa Dukumor

Theresa Dukumor | Nigeria | Independent (N/A)

Nigerian Barrister & Solicitor | LLM Candidate, International Trade Law

NOT RETAINED: RPD mailing list subscription confirmed 25 May 2026 — total engagement under 2 months, far below the 3-year minimum required by Section 6.3.4

Background & Motivation

- Nigerian barrister and solicitor completing an LLM in International Trade Law, with background in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and cross-border transactions (Nigeria, UK, Canada).
- Motivation centres on procedural discipline: ensuring decisions are properly taken, parties heard, and outcomes accurately recorded. Commits to strict neutrality in the Co-Chair role.
- Also provides administrative support to an outreach programme engaging

AFRINIC Event Participation (Criterion D)

- ICP-2 governance webinar, NRO/AFRINIC — 21 October 2025 (attendance confirmed by AFRINIC).
- AFRINIC 36 PPM — 10 December 2025 (registered).
- Meets the minimum of 2 AFRINIC events within 5 years on this criterion alone.

RPD Mailing List Activity (Criterion C) — CRITICAL FAIL

- Subscription to AFRINIC RPD list confirmed: 25 May 2026.
- Posts documented: 27 May 2026 (RPD code of conduct, msg 014800) and 3 June 2026 (msg 014864); 28 May 2026 (IPv6 adoption, msg 014819).
- Total RPD engagement at time of vetting: under 2 months. The guidelines require a minimum aggregate of 3 years of meaningful, substantive activity. This criterion is not met.

Nominator / Seconder (Criterion F)

- Nominator: N.E. Diversified Limited (ORG-NEDL1-AFRINIC) | ABDULRAHMAN HAYATU, CEO
- Seconder: E-Lapariah Technologies Ltd (ORG-ETL10-AFRINIC) | Ayodele Adedamola Ajibola, CEO
- Two distinct Resource Members confirmed in good standing. This criterion is satisfied.

Candidate 3 of 5 — Mark James Elkins

Mark James Elkins | South Africa | Posix Systems (ISP)

Chief Executive Officer — Former AFRINIC Board Member (6 years)

NOT RETAINED: Co-author of a policy proposal currently under discussion — in conflict with Section 6.3.4 and inconsistent with the declaration signed on the nomination form

Background & Motivation

- AFRINIC Member since the registry's inception. CEO of Posix Systems, an ISP in South Africa. Formerly responsible for the CO.ZA DNS zone, the largest country-code zone in Africa.
- Served on the AFRINIC Board for 6 years. Has submitted and had policy proposals accepted by the PDWG community — demonstrating direct, long-standing engagement with the PDP.
- Motivation submitted informally but supported by an extensive and verifiable

RPD Mailing List Activity (Criterion C)

- Long-standing AFRINIC community member with verified, substantive RPD engagement including authorship of accepted policy proposals (e.g. IPv6 /48 policy).
- 3-year meaningful engagement criterion is clearly satisfied based on verifiable community record.

AFRINIC Event Participation (Criterion D)

- Confirmed through 6 years of Board membership and extensive AFRINIC event attendance. Criterion satisfied.
- Nominator: Posix Systems (ORG-PS1-AFRINIC) — self-nomination, permitted under Section 5.2.
- Seconder: Ultimate Linux Solutions (ORG-ULSC1-AFRINIC) | Jaco Kroon, CEO. Two distinct organisations confirmed.

Policy Authorship Conflict (Criterion E) — CRITICAL FAIL

- At the time of nomination and vetting, the candidate's name appeared as co-author of a policy proposal that was scheduled for discussion at the upcoming PPM.
- The nomination declaration explicitly states: 'I confirm that I am not the author of any policy proposal scheduled for discussion at the upcoming PPM.' This declaration was inconsistent with the facts on record at the time.
- Section 6.3.4 provides that a candidate must not be the author of any proposal currently under discussion. The NomCom applies this to all forms of authorship. The candidate's subsequent removal from co-authorship does not retroactively cure the ineligibility that existed at the time of vetting.

Candidate 4 of 5 — Dorothy Kwamboka Ogwang

Dorothy Kwamboka Ogwang | Kenya | Independent (N/A)

Marketing Specialist

NOT RETAINED: RPD engagement insufficient and unsubstantiated — no archive links, no specific contributions cited; candidate self-describes as 'continuing to build familiarity' with RPD discussions

Background & Motivation

- Marketing Specialist based in Nairobi, Kenya. Motivation centres on facilitating transparent, inclusive, and impartial policy discussions and ensuring diverse viewpoints are heard fairly.
- Commits to upholding procedural fairness and supporting consensus-building in accordance with the PDP. Understands the Co-Chair's role as facilitative rather than policy-advocacy.

AFRINIC Event Participation (Criterion D)

- ICP-2 governance webinar, NRO/AFRINIC (October 2025).
- 'Understanding the Impact of AFRINIC Resource Policies' — AFRINIC webinar.
- Two events cited — meets the minimum of 2 AFRINIC events within 5 years on this criterion.

RPD Mailing List Activity (Criterion C) — CRITICAL FAIL

- States participation 'several times' on the AFRINIC RPD mailing list. No archive links, no post titles, no message IDs, and no dates provided.
- Candidate describes herself as 'continuing to build my familiarity with RPD discussions, policy proposals, and procedures.' This language itself signals recent and limited engagement.
- Without verifiable evidence of substantive, 3-year engagement, the criterion cannot be considered satisfied.

Nominator / Seconder (Criterion F)

- Nominator: DASAMONIE DIGITAL SERVICE (ORG-DDSL2-AFRINIC) | OLATUNJI AYOOLA
- Seconder: Connect, Surf and Smile Limited (ORG-CSAS1-AFRINIC) | IKENNA OKAFOR, CEO
- Two distinct Resource Members confirmed in good standing. This criterion is satisfied.

Candidate 5 of 5 — Aboka Baya Sylvain

Aboka Baya Sylvain | Cameroon | CAMIX — CAMeroon Internet eXchange point

Coordinator General Operations (CGO) | cmNOG Organiser | Independent Network & Systems Administrator

ELIGIBLE - Confirmed by PDWG consensus (acclamation) at AFRINIC-38, 18 November 2026, Cape Town

Background & Motivation

- Network and Systems Administrator based in Yaounde, Cameroon. Involved in restructuring critical Internet infrastructure including IXPs and DNS Authoritative Servers for the gov.cm zone.
- Recruited by CAMIX in July 2024 as CGO. Previously contributed to Douala-IX. Active Board of Director member of multiple Internet governance organisations since at least 2011.
- Motivated by the need for support in the PDWG co-chair role, encouragement from PDWG peers, and a desire to bring French-speaking African community perspectives to the process.

RPD Mailing List Activity (Criterion C)

- Subscribed to AFRINIC RPD since ~2011; actively contributing since 2014. AFRINIC nic-hdl: SBA1-AFRINIC.
- Documented posts: RPD (Oct 2026, msg 015651), ARIN PPML (Apr 2026), RIPE DB-WG (Apr 2023). Activity on multiple RIR lists explicitly qualifies under Section 6.3.4.
- 12+ years of verifiable, substantive mailing list engagement across AFRINIC, ARIN, and RIPE communities. Criterion clearly satisfied.

AFRINIC Event Participation (Criterion D)

- AIS'26 / AFRINIC-37, Nairobi, June 2026 — attended in person; participated in PDP session.
- AFRINIC Members Connect 2022, 22-24 November 2022 — online.
- Presented 'A Vision of the NOG's Ecosystem in AfriNIC Service Region' at AFRINIC36. Criterion satisfied with multiple verifiable events.

Nominator / Seconder (Criterion F)

- Nominator: ST DIGITAL (ORG-SD2-AFRINIC) | Jean-Francis AHANDA
- Seconder: HeViS.Co Systems (Pty) Ltd (ORG-HCSL1-AFRINIC) | Hendrik Visage
- Two distinct Resource Members in good standing confirmed. Nomination and seconder letters duly submitted. All documentation complete.

Candidates Not Retained — Summary of Findings

Candidate	Country	Failed	Specific Reason
David Ezennia	Nigeria	C, D, F	Nominator and seconder are the same person and organisation (Criterion F — critical). RPD engagement and AFRINIC events unsubstantiated (Criteria C & D).
Theresa Dukumor	Nigeria	C	RPD mailing list subscription confirmed 25 May 2026. Total active period under 2 months. Minimum 3 years meaningful engagement required (Criterion C — critical).
Mark James Elkins	South Africa	E	Co-author of a policy proposal currently under discussion at the time of nomination and vetting, contrary to the signed declaration and Section 6.3.4 (Criterion E — critical).
Dorothy Kwamboka Ogwang	Kenya	C	RPD engagement unsubstantiated — no archive links, no specific posts cited. Candidate's own form describes engagement as ongoing familiarisation. 3-year minimum not met (Criterion C — critical).

Selected Candidate — Aboka Baya Sylvain | PDP Co-Chair 2026-2028

Confirmed by PDWG consensus (acclamation) at AFRINIC-38, 18 November 2026, Hyatt Regency Cape Town.

Candidate Profile

Country: Cameroon
Organisation: CAMIX (CAMeroon Internet eXchange point)
Role: Coordinator General Operations | cmNOG Organiser
AFRINIC nic-hdl: SBA1-AFRINIC

Aboka Baya Sylvain is an independent Network & Systems Administrator based in Yaounde, Cameroon. He has been instrumental in building and restructuring critical Internet infrastructure in Cameroon, including CAMIX, Douala-IX, and DNS authoritative infrastructure for the gov.cm zone. As a NOG organiser and Board member of multiple Internet governance bodies since 2011, he brings extensive experience in managing consensus-based community processes.

Eligibility Confirmed

- A **AFRINIC region** Yaounde, Cameroon
- B **Age of majority** DOB 28-11-1977
- C **RPD 3yr activity** Active since 2014 (RPD, ARIN, RIPE)
- D **AFRINIC events** AFRINIC-37 (Jun 2026); Members Connect 2022; AFRINIC36 presenter
- E **No active proposal** Declaration confirmed; verified
- F **2 distinct members** ST DIGITAL + HeViS.Co Systems

Selection at the PPM — Process & Terms

Consensus-Based Selection Process

Pursuant to Clause 3.3 of the AFRINIC Consolidated Policy Manual and Section 6.3.2 of the Election Guidelines, the PDP Co-Chair is confirmed through a consensus-based process during the Public Policy Meeting.

With only one eligible candidate found, the selection exercise proceeds as follows:

- NomCom presents the final slate (1 eligible candidate) to the PDWG at the PPM
- The PDWG Chair invites registered PPM participants to consider and confirm the candidate
- Where only one eligible candidate exists and no objection is raised, the candidate is confirmed by rough consensus (acclamation) per Section 14.3 of the Guidelines
- The outgoing Co-Chair(s) formally hand over to the incoming Co-Chair at a mutually agreed point within the PPM to ensure continuity (Section 6.3.6)

Terms of Office

Transitional Arrangement (Section 6.3.5):

Two Co-Chair seats are open. By way of an exceptional transitional arrangement applicable to this cycle only, the two selected Co-Chairs shall serve staggered terms:

1-year term: ending at the first PPM following the expiry of 1 year

2-year term: ending at the first PPM following the expiry of 2 years

The PDWG shall determine the allocation of terms

Thank You

NomCom 2026 - PDP Co-Chair Selection

Nomination Committee 2026

Chair: Ganesh Ramalingum

Members: Solomon Dindi - Benjamin Prince - Prichard Chakadenga

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