# About LARUS Foundation

Section 1

# **About** Us

## LARUS Foundation

- We believe that education is critical in promoting a better Internet. In 2019, we established LARUS Foundation to promote education on the Internet. The Foundation has sponsored more than a thousand of students from Africa to participate in major Internet events

- LARUS Foundation strives to increase public engagement in the process of Internet policy development to make sure the Internet infrastructure remains free and fair for the foreseeable future. Through our Fellowship program, we support various stakeholders, particularly students and academics, to take an active part in Internet governance

# Internet Governance Present Situation

Section 2

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# The Role of RIRs

- A Regional Internet Registry (RIR) is an organization that manages the allocation and registration of Internet number resources within a region of the world. Internet number resources include IP addresses and autonomous system (AS) numbers

- RIR's follow their regional policies to delegate resources to their members.

## 5 RIR's for 5 different regions

- AFRINIC - Africa

- ARIN - Antarctica, Canada, parts of the Caribbean, and the United States

- APNIC - East Asia, Oceania, South Asia, and Southeast Asia

- LACNIC - most of the Caribbean and all of Latin America

- RIPE NCC - Europe, Central Asia, Russia, and West Asia

# Governance of RIRs

- A RIR is being formed and run through the bottom-up approach with major participation of the community

- A RIR is governed by and operated under the management of its board, eg, the Board of Directors for AFRINIC

- The Board Directors are elected by the RIR members

- The head of the RIR, eg, the CEO of AFRINIC, is appointed by the Board

- A RIR has to be operated in accordance with the its policies

- All policies have to go through the Policy Development Process (PDP) and reach public consensus before they go into effect

# Need of Internet Governance

Section 3

# Horrible Record of AFRINIC History

- Corruption – former senior management member of AFRINIC alleged of stealing 4.1mln IPs, worth $87mln. Companies, education sectors and Department of Defense were hard hit. Yet, no action has been taken on this person

- Sexual Harassment - former AFRINIC Head of External relations filed complaint against its former Chair, Vice Chair and Finance Director. AFRINIC did not do investigation but announced there had been no evidence of such

- Numerous ongoing court cases filed by its members against AFRINIC due to its bad faith acts against them

- Even the AFRINIC CEO has recently filed a lawsuit against AFRINIC

- AFRINIC banks accounts had once been frozen

- AFRINIC and its CEO have repeatedly breached the court orders that would constitute contempt of court

- The Supreme Court has decided that the AFRINIC Board now does not have a quorum

- This RIR can no longer be operated in an effective manner

# RIR Breach of Its Power

- Through the Number Resource Organization (NRO), all 5 heads of the RIRs jointly sent a letter to the Mauritius Government

- Tried to hamper the sovereignty of Mauritius and influence the independent of its justice system

- To gain a favorable position to to attack a RIR member without any ground

- Threatened that AFRINIC would move out of Mauritius and Internet service will be impacted if the government did not act in favor of them

- A RIR is supposed to serve its members and act on their best interests

- RIR's of other regions should not get involved in another region's matters, not to mention attacking a member of another RIR

# Root Causes

- Internet resources, so far, have been governed by a centralized system , i.e. the RIR systems

- After many years of serving their regions and remaining in power, RIRs have forgotten their roles and responsibilities

- The huge commercial value of the IPv4 market leads to potential corruption within the systems

- RIRs were only established as private companies or organizations whereas now they act like they are cross-countries superpower above any government and sovereignty

- However, their authority comes from the community through the bottom-up approach

- In reality, they are not representing vast majority of their members because the elections of their boards are defunct

- Eg., in the 2019 AFRINIC Board election (for the years after 2019, no numbers of votes were announced; another example of problems in their management), out of total around 2,000 members, there were only 189 votes cast, less than 10%

# Consequences and Future Vision

Section 4

# Adverse Consequences

- RIRs no longer have their minds to serve their members and protect their interests

- RIRs do not act in the best interest of the community

- RIRs become in favor of large companies or those vested interests

- Late comers and developing countries remain   disadvantaged

- Destabilizing and Adverse effect on the development of the Internet, which shall be fair and open to everyone on the planet

# Future Vision

- Effective and impartial governance of the Internet

- Higher accountability and transparency

- Represent the interests of the community and everyone

- No restriction on any legitimate usage to promote a free Internet

- Free IPs transfer allowed to increase the liquidity and hence minimize the waste of unused IPs

- With Web 3.0, the Internet resources shall shift to a decentralized system using technology such as blockchain

- This already happened. Like Ethereum Name Services >> replacing DNS

**The Internet shall be free, fair and open under the effective governance!**

# Thank You.

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