

AFRICAN DIASPORA ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL 6TH REGION

ELECTIONS

A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



"Hold a truly representative gathering of the African Diaspora, hash it out amongst yourselves, and come to the Roundtable with your 20 representatives." – advice received at the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

CANDIDATE INTEREST & ELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES

- 1) All interested parties join their Regional WhatsApp Group
- 2) TOWN HALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED AND HELD
- 3) All interested parties who wish to run as a Candidate, must present their completed 6th Region-Application Form and post it in the Group (Annex 1)
- 4) All group members must read and digest each Candidate's submission. 5) A sub-group of the Regional group will be created and called "RESULTS"
- 6) On VOTING DAY [to be determined] each group member will name the Candidate he wishes to Vote for and post it in the sub-group "RESULTS". (Annex 2)
- 7) Everyone will be able to see and determine who has received the most Votes.
- 8) Elected Candidates will then be published officially through the medias.

BRAZIL	USA	CARIBBEAN	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE
ELECT 4 PRINCIPALS AND 4 DEPUTIES	ELECT 4 PRINCIPALS AND 4 DEPUTIES	ELECT 4 PRINCIPALS AND 4 DEPUTIES	ELECT 2 PRINCIPALS AND 2 DEPUTIES	ELECT 2 PRINCIPALS AND 2 DEPUTIES

MIDDLE EAST	CENTRAL AMERICA	CANADA	ASIA & OCEANIA
ELECT 1 PRINCIPAL AND 1	ELECT 1 PRINCIPAL AND 1	ELECT 1 PRINCIPAL AND 1	ELECT 1 PRINCIPAL AND 1

DEPUTY	DEPUTY	DEPUTY	DEPUTY
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CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

FOR 6TH REGION VOTING PROCESS ONLY

SECTION III OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Background and Contact details of designated Candidate.

FIELD	CANDIDATE REPRESENTATIVE
Full Name	Thabang Nonyane
Age	48
Gender	Male
Your Home Country	United Kingdom
Your Region	Europe
Occupation/Designation	Analyst/Civil Servant
Highest Academic Qualifications	MBA, Msc.
Email Address (mandatory)	tnonyane2014@gmail.com
WhatsApp Number (Optional)	+44 7984 562206

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Describe why you would be the most suitable Candidate to hold the position as a representative for the 6th Region (5000 words or less).

Please indicate whether you believe you fit all of; most of; or some of the criteria outlined in the Official Applications of ECOSOCC

<https://ecosocc.au.int/en/elections>

***Disclaimer – these elections are independent of AU ECOSOCC which currently has no legal framework to include the diaspora**

I am not in any way special or different from the other Candidates. I am an Afrikan living in the Diaspora. I am looking to represent my people living in the Diaspora and put them first in everything I do in this capacity. I can promise that, if they elect me in this role, their word, their dreams and aspirations will reach the decision-makers within the AU institutions ensuring that they are heard and they are seen. Governance, at its basic level means that those chosen to represent the people, only carry out that mandate and not their own interests. My mission in applying for this role is to put the ordinary Afrikan people, like myself, at the heart of decision-making.

I believe that I meet most if not all criteria of Official Applications of ECOSOCC.

Our Afrikan people have suffered all kinds of trauma in their lifetime; our Afrikan people are still experiencing the Post-Slavery and Colonialism Disorder and require healing. This healing can only be successful if they are prioritised. Africans, born in the Diaspora, have been living their whole lives, in the hope and expectation that one day, wrongs visited on their forefathers and mothers will one day be addressed and redressed; that one day they would be able to cross over to the Afrikan soil, taking with them the spirits of their forebears, their hopes, their dreams and wishes. I now know why I came to live in the Diaspora, it was to reconnect with my people, to understand their pain, their hurt, to feel their trauma and to do something about it.

As I said already, I am no different from any of my brothers and sisters. I was born in the land of Mhloimi and Moshoeshoe, I learned about uBuntu early on.

Motho ke Motho ka Batho ba Bang
I am because we are.

I saw Nelson Mandela, try to live the philosophy of Mohlomi and Moshoeshoe. I heard Arch-Bishop Desmond Tutu try to explain what uBuntu is. It is not exclusively about exceptionalism and/or individualism. Under uBuntu we recognise the power of the collective and we help the individual be the best that they can be within the society that loves and nurtures every single individual and also recognises that we are all endowed with different talents, yet together we are formidable. Under uBuntu, we enable one another to heal, we fight for one another, we love one another, we are ONE.

My aspiration is to see UNITY of purpose prevail amongst us Afrikan children, born in the Diaspora or Mother continent. We shall fight for reparations for all Africans to repair us from the harm that was done to our forebears, which has since been transmitted into us. I will represent a cause for the repatriation of the Afrikans. We all hope to one day realise the dream of Ancestors such as Marcus Garvey, who longed to see a united, strong, self-reliant and resilient Afrika.

I have heard and/or seen questions being asked regarding who the Afrikan Diaspora should be. Unity should be the answer; we cannot stand, unless we are united. There are no sides to choose except the UNITED Afrikan children against injustices, discrimination, exploitation and racism. Dr Arikana Chihombori-Quao in one of her speeches remarked that: "Some senior officials in governments of our Afrikan nations expressed doubts about whether the Afrikan Diaspora really wanted to return to Afrika". This demonstrates lack of understanding and/or awareness regarding life in the Diaspora for the Afrikan children or what Afrika has to offer for her children. Therefore, those Afrikan Diaspora who were born in Afrika, must play an important role to bridge the gap between those born in the Diaspora and those who never left the Afrikan soil. This is where I stand, on the bridge between the Diaspora and home. I have a role to play to bridge that gap between the Afrikans on the continent and the Afrikans in the Diaspora.

I intend to ask important questions such as:

- > Why are the Afrikans poor even though their Continent is the richest?
- > Why are Afrikans kept apart, both on the Afrikan

continent and in the Diaspora? Isn't their strength in their collective unity? uBuntu?

> How can we help Afrikans to unlock their natural potential for Ma'at, uBuntu (Botho) and their potential for healing?

> How can we help Afrikans to work together for value-adding collaboration and achieve high levels of synergy?

Briefly about me:

Born in Lesotho, in Southern Afrika, I moved to the United Kingdom in 2004. I have degrees in Economics, Statistics and Business. I have worked in Research, in Analysis, Programme and Project Management. In Southern Afrika I was part of teams that put some crucial institutions such as the National Payment Systems across SADC countries. I have also worked on improving access to finance for the Afrikan people. In the UK, I have worked on programme management, and contributed in building and sustaining the education sector. Crucially, when I lived and worked in the UK I led an ethnic Minority Network, organising and leading on several empowering and inspirational sessions that revealed how much Afrikans wished to return to their motherland and/or play a crucial role in development, progress and eventual unity of the Afrikan continent. Therefore, having worked in both Afrika and the Diaspora, I will be able to fuse the knowledge of both landscapes and bring both inside and outside knowledge into this role.

How will I achieve this?

We cannot achieve unity using the same tools and education curriculum that was used to subjugate the African peoples. It is time we all go through a healing and decolonial empowerment education. Then we will be able to implement an Afro-centric education system for our children, while at the same time embracing developments that will make Afrika stronger. We cannot throw away the baby with the bath water, but we must first recognise who we are, embrace our identity as Africans and entrench our uniqueness. We must remember Marcus Garvey's advice:

"A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots".

We must replant our Afrikan baobab tree and ensure that its roots are natured, its stem is strong enough

to carry the weight of its people. Then we can borrow from other people to make leaves and branches. We must learn to see our brothers and sisters in ourselves, respect nature and have full confidence in our abilities. I will play a role in helping Afrikans in the Diaspora and continent re-MEMBER who they are. The ancient African philosophy of Ma'at will be brought back to forge harmony amongst our peoples. Afrikan festivals will be celebrated through Afrikan Arts, music, drama and festivals. Afrikan Union day will take a whole new meaning - not the current one in which the majority of Afrikans are oblivious to it.

We must relearn to grow our own crops from the fertile African soil and feed our people both on the African continent and in the Diaspora. The yams, cassava, plantain, etc should be imported from Afrika by the Diaspora, while the Diaspora are also enabled to invest and play a role in Afrika's development, in infrastructure to unite the Afrikans. Projects such as the Lobito Corridor should be owned jointly by the Afrikans and the Afrikans in the Diaspora and then invite partners to top up where we have already started and are working together. I intend to play a pivotal role in revolutionising the way Afrikans engage in agriculture, food production and trade; ensuring that the Afrikan people in the Diaspora and on the continent are very much centre stage.

The cobalt, gold, oil and all the key minerals that Afrika produces should at all costs be developed and their beneficiation should happen in Afrika before they are exported abroad. Trade must happen on Afrikan people's terms, not the importers or consumers.

Finally, I intend to facilitate the Afrikan Diaspora's involvement in stopping the new form of slavery of the Afrikan youth. I will ensure that the agenda on Afrikan youth remains on the table to ensure that they get all the opportunities they need on their beautiful continent without having to travel outside of their beautiful continent, across hazardous Sahara desert nor cross the Mediterranean Sea at such a great peril or be mistreated in the Middle East. I will organise cultural exchanges between African youths in the Diaspora and those in Afrika as part of the learning process and their educational journeys. Travel will broaden the minds of our youths on both sides of the Atlantic, helping both sides to

	<p>appreciate the opportunities and/or privileges they each have. The strength of the Afrikan continent will be in protecting all Afrikan people in all the four cardinal points of the world. The racism, slavery and discrimination suffered by the Afrikan people Must come to an end through this process. Otherwise why should we even engage in it if it is not going to guarantee the freedoms of the Afrikans?</p> <p>We, in the Diaspora and on the continent, must acknowledge that to free the World, we must first free ourselves as Afrikans, then with Afrika taking its rightful place in the world, there will be peace and harmony.</p> <p>MY VISION OF AFRIKA</p> <p>A home for the Afrikans, not a prison as it is or a plantation. Afrikans MUST enjoy the fruits of their labour and the continent of their forebears. I envision a continent where there is harmony amongst its people, no greed or fear, no hatred or violence. I see a continent where Afrikan people play a leading role in all their productive industries and manufacturing before products and services are sold abroad. I envision a continent where other people visit Afrika and learn about the Afrikans' cutting edge technology, the environmentally friendly production lines. I dream of an Afrika whose children learn about themselves and love what they see and hear. Afrika takes a leading role in bringing peace and security to the world because the leader is back. There is a sustainable economic, social and cultural development leading to a beneficial integration of great Afrikan economies, people and ideas. Afrika's abundant sunshine is harnessed to produce solar energy that drives industry, wind and hydropower from its mighty rivers is also exported to partner continents. Afrika is a home of eco-friendly tourism, where the world comes to admire Afrika and her children. Good governance springs up from the ubuntu and Ma'at philosophies creating the foundation of job-creating economies and giving the Afrikan people a fair access to their resources. The Afrikans in the Diaspora are admired and respected because their world is the mainstay of the world. Everyone benefits from the wisdom of Afrika and her beautiful people, home and abroad.</p>
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SECTION IV THEMATIC INTERVENTION AREAS

Rank the **Top 3** thematic areas of intervention (in order of priority) of your organization or

your personal expertise or interest.

SN	THEMATIC INTERVENTION	SUB-AREAS	RANK
1	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment	Agriculture and Food Security Rural Development Sustainable Environment Climate Change Environment; Water and Natural Resources Desertification	1
2	Economic Development, Trade, Industry, Mining	Trade Industry Handicrafts Customs Immigration Mining AfCFTA	

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3	Education, Science, Technology & Innovation	Education ICT Human Capital Innovation Science and Technology Space	
4	Infrastructure, Transport and Energy	Energy Transport Communications Infrastructure Tourism	
5	Political Affairs, Peace and Security	Conflict Management Peace Building Prevention and Combating Terrorism Drug & arms trafficking Security reforms Human Rights Rule of Law Democratic and Constitutional Rule Good Governance Electoral Institutions	2

		Humanitarian Affairs	
6	Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development	Health Drug Control Population & Migration Labour and Employment Family & Elderly The Physically Challenged Social Integration	
7	Women & Gender Development	Women Empowerment Children Gender Equality	
8	Cross-Cutting Issues	HIV/AIDS COVID-19 Response International Cooperation Partnerships Diaspora	3
9	Youth Development	Youth Development Sports	
10	Arts, Culture & Heritage	Arts Culture Heritage	

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PART VI DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made above are correct to the best of my knowledge.¹

Signature : 

Name and title: Thabang Nonyane

Date: 17/01/2025

Applications duly completed and signed should be submitted within your Regional WhatsApp Group for deliberation by its members.

¹ False information will lead to an automatic disqualification

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VOTING FORM

FOR 6TH REGION VOTING PROCESS ONLY

YOUR REGION IS:

1. Vote for your **Principal** Candidate/s

FIELD	CANDIDATE	COUNTRY
Full Name		

2. Vote for your **Deputy** Candidate/s

FIELD	CANDIDATE	COUNTRY
Full Name		

**VOTING FORM SHOULD BE SENT TO
“RESULTS” WHATSAPP SUB-GROUP**