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PRESS STATEMENT

COPDEM UNCOVERS 94,732 EXTRA VOTERS IN 233 EBONYI POLLING UNITS: INEC MUST AUDIT THE 2027 PRELIMINARY REGISTER NOW

The Coalition for Protection of Democracy (COPDEM) has found serious and unexplained jumps in the number of registered voters in 233 polling units across all 13 Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State, in INEC's 2027 Preliminary Voter Register. The Presidential and National Assembly elections hold on Saturday, 16th January, 2027.

The review was carried out with the Data and Intelligence Directorate of Governance Index and the Directorate of Diaspora of the NDC National Campaign Council. Using the Reeg & Dai platform (checkpu.copdem.org) and the Election Manager Analytics platform, we compared the voter count of each polling unit in the 2027 Preliminary Register with INEC's 2023 register for the same unit.

In 2023, these 233 polling units had 89,793 registered voters between them. The 2027 Preliminary Register now gives them 184,525. That is 94,732 extra voters, more than double, in less than four years. Ebonyi's whole register grew by only 9.4% between 2019 and 2023, and the 2027 preliminary register is 14.4% above 2023 for the state as a whole. In 232 of the 233 units, the rise is more than twice the state's own rate.

The additions are not spread evenly. Ebonyi South Senatorial District alone accounts for 45,375 of them, nearly half of the state total. In the Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency, 48 polling units gained 30,835 voters. In Onicha LGA alone, 29 polling units gained 25,354 voters.

In Amanator-Isu ward, Onicha LGA, 14 of the ward's 26 polling units went from 12,920 voters to 29,437. Isu Achara Town Hall in that ward went from 992 to 4,485. In Afikpo South, Amiri Ekoli ward went from 5,730 to 11,043 and Ndioke Ekoli from 1,682 to 6,333. Some units that were almost empty in 2023 are now full. Ekula Primary School III in Afikpo South went from 50 voters to 1,013, and Enyibichiri Amuda Town Hall in Ikwo went from 26 to 880.

We have identified 51 hotspot wards, each with two or more flagged polling units. The top ten of these wards (Amanator-Isu, Agbabor-Isu, Amiri Ekoli, Ndioke Ekoli, Umuhuali, Agbaja Offia Onwe, Agbaja Anyanwuigwe, Mbeke, Ngbo and Igbeagu III) hold 48,177 of the extra voters, more than half of the state total.

Some new registration and transfers are expected. But growth of this size, packed into particular wards, is not normal. An inflated register is the first step towards over-voting and padded results.

COPDEM therefore calls on:

1. **INEC** to audit the registrations and transfers into these 233 polling units before the final register is published on 15th December, 2026, and to make the BVAS records behind them available.
2. **The Ebonyi State Resident Electoral Commissioner** to receive and act on claims and objections from these wards without delay.
3. **Political parties and candidates** to inspect the displayed register in every flagged unit and object to any name that does not belong there.
4. **Voters in Ebonyi State** to check that their names are on the register, and to report names they do not recognise in their polling units.

We will submit the full polling-unit list to INEC. Our ward and polling unit coordinators will stay on the ground through the display period and on election day.

These are detections for verification, not final findings. We will update our figures as INEC responds and as ground checks come in.

The full report, *Artificial Inflation of Polling Unit Voter Count Detected in Ebonyi State*, and the hotspot ward infographic are available on request.

Signed:

Somadina Muojeke
Head, Technology, Data Analytics & Intelligence
Coalition for Protection of Democracy (COPDEM)
28th November, 2026

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In collaboration with the Data and Intelligence Directorate, Governance Index, and the Directorate of Diaspora, NDC National Campaign Council (NCC)