THE TAP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

Monitoring Electoral Integrity, Human Rights and Democratic Governance in Nigeria

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The tenth edition of the Tap Electoral & Human Rights Monitor tracks reported developments between 2 November and 6 November 2026 with implications for human rights, electoral participation and democratic governance. The reporting period brings together developments in electoral administration, political participation, campaign materials and insecurity, political participation, state police, women's participation in elections, judicial accountability and public infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ten developments were recorded. Two concerned proposed affirmative-action measures to increase women's representation in governance.

Electoral integrity featured prominently. INEC defended the potential use of artificial intelligence in election management while warning about deepfakes and digital manipulation.

The National Assembly's constitutional amendment proposal for state police reportedly secured the required level of state legislative approval and was transmitted to the President for assent. The Nigeria Police Force also directed nationwide action against the destruction or defacement of campaign materials. In the justice sector, the National Judicial Council suspended three judicial officers over misconduct. Finally, the Anambra State Government attributed road failures to environmental and human factors.

These developments highlight the need for inclusive political representation, credible electoral data, responsible use of technology, impartial law enforcement, judicial accountability and transparent public administration.

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1

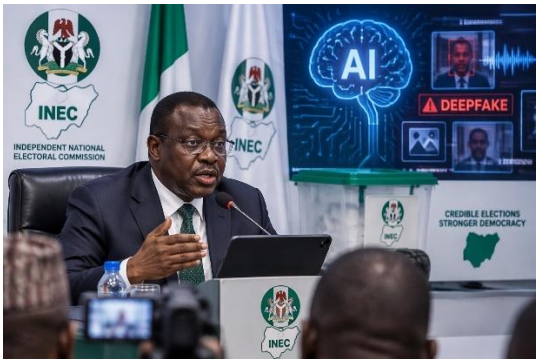


National Assembly Proposes 74 Additional Legislative Seats for Women

During the ongoing review of the 1999 Constitution, the National Assembly proposed creating 74 additional seats for women in the Senate and House of Representatives, alongside three reserved seats for women in each State House of Assembly. Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele disclosed the proposal at the 2026 Law Week organised by the Ekiti State Chapter of the International Federation of Women Lawyers. The proposal is intended to increase women's representation without displacing existing elected representatives. It remains a proposal within the constitutional review process and will require the relevant legislative and constitutional steps before it can take effect. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The proposal responds to the persistent underrepresentation of women in elected political institutions and recognises that formal equality in voting and candidacy does not necessarily mean equal access to decision-making. Reserved seats could create a pathway for women's participation and help address structural barriers within party politics and electoral competition. The proposal should be assessed against Nigeria's constitutional equality guarantees and its commitments under CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol.

2



INEC Chairman Defends AI Use but Warns Against Deepfakes and Election Manipulation

INEC Chairman Professor Joash Amupitan defended the use of artificial intelligence in election management, arguing that the technology is not inherently hostile to democracy and can strengthen electoral administration. Nevertheless, he warned that the misuse of generative AI—including manipulated videos, cloned voices and fabricated images—could mislead voters and weaken confidence in the 2027 general elections. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The potential benefits of AI in election administration must be balanced against the risks of opaque decision-making, inaccurate data, discriminatory outcomes, cyber vulnerabilities and the circulation of convincing false information. The warning about deepfakes also raises issues concerning freedom of expression, access to reliable information and the right of voters to make informed choices. Responses to disinformation must be evidence-based and proportionate.

3

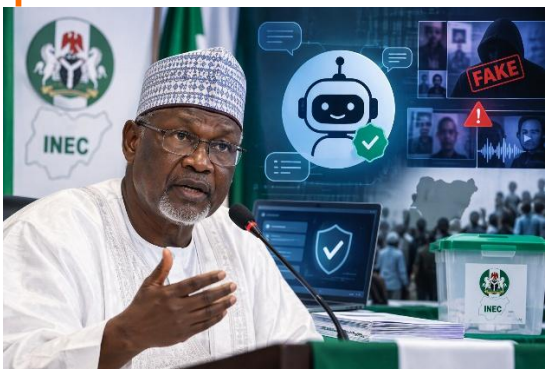


Dino Melaye Alleges Creation of 453 Polling Units and Irregularities in Voter Register

Former Kogi West Senator and African Democratic Congress chieftain Dino Melaye accused INEC of secretly creating 453 additional polling units and failing to address alleged irregularities in the preliminary voters' register. He also alleged that photographs had been repeated across different voter records and questioned significant changes in the number of registered voters at particular polling units. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The reported case raises concerns about child labour, protection from economic exploitation, access to education and the safety of children in informal employment. It also highlights the need for effective identification and referral mechanisms for migrant children and stronger oversight of apprenticeship arrangements where the boundary between training and exploitative labour may be unclear.

4



Jega Calls for Verified Chatbots and Rapid-Response Systems to Protect Election Integrity

Former INEC Chairman Professor Attahiru Jega warned that unchecked artificial intelligence and digital manipulation could undermine the credibility of the 2027 elections. Speaking at the National Summit on Artificial Intelligence, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, and Electoral Information Integrity, he urged electoral authorities to anticipate information threats and establish mechanisms for rapid response. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Access to accurate and timely electoral information is essential to meaningful political participation. False information about registration, PVC collection, polling locations, voting procedures or results can discourage participation, cause confusion and potentially trigger violence. Rapid-response systems should correct falsehoods without undermining media freedom or the public's ability to scrutinise INEC.

5



INEC Identifies About 1.5 Million Irregular Registrations; Final Register Expected in December

INEC has identified approximately 1.5 million voter-registration records with irregularities during its review of the register ahead of the 2027 general elections. Reporting on the Commission's explanation indicates that 1,277,252 records had been confirmed invalid and removed before the preliminary register was released, while about 268,000 records remained subject to further verification. INEC has said the final certified register is expected to be published on 15 December 2026. **Ready More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The accuracy of the register is a core condition of the right to vote. Inflated or fraudulent entries can compromise electoral integrity, while careless removal of legitimate records can disenfranchise eligible citizens. Public confidence will depend not only on the number of records removed, but also on whether the process is lawful, impartial, auditable and completed before certification.

6



'State Police Constitutional Amendment Reportedly Transmitted to President for Assent

The National Assembly announced that the constitutional amendment proposal seeking to establish State Police Services had secured approval from the required number of State Houses of Assembly and was being transmitted to President Bola Tinubu for assent. Reports on 4 November referred to 29 or 30 state approvals, while the constitutional threshold is at least two-thirds of the 36 state assemblies. The proposal is intended to provide a constitutional basis for a decentralised policing structure. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Decentralised policing may improve local responsiveness and address security challenges that require knowledge of local conditions. It also raises important human rights and governance questions, including the risk of state-level political interference, selective enforcement, arbitrary arrests, excessive force and inadequate oversight. The reform should strengthen public safety without creating additional avenues for the abuse of executive power.

7



Police Direct Nationwide Action Against Destruction of Campaign Posters

Inspector-General of Police Olatunji Rilwan Disu directed Commissioners of Police across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory to prevent, investigate and prosecute the deliberate destruction, defacement or unlawful removal of campaign posters, banners and billboards belonging to political candidates and parties. The Police stated that such conduct may amount to malicious damage under applicable criminal laws. The directive also warned that individuals who sponsor or facilitate such acts could be held accountable where evidence establishes their involvement. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Destruction of campaign materials can intimidate political actors, restrict visibility and contribute to an atmosphere of political intolerance. The Police directive is therefore relevant to the protection of fair political competition. Its implementation must nevertheless be impartial and consistent with the law. Enforcement should not be used selectively against opposition parties or to criminalise peaceful political expression, lawful removal of materials from prohibited locations, or disputes that should be resolved through non-criminal processes.

8



NJC Suspends Three Judicial Officers for One Year Without Pay

The National Judicial Council suspended three judicial officers for one year without pay following findings of judicial misconduct. The officers were identified in reports as Justice Hannatu Mohammed Kabir of the Nasarawa State High Court, Grand Kadi Mohammed Sani Salihu of the Jigawa State Sharia Court of Appeal and Justice Sobere Biambo of the Rivers State High Court. The reported misconduct included unlawful detention of a litigant for 58 days, reopening a judgment that had become valid, and imposing fines and bench warrants without due process. The NJC also cautioned other judicial officers and issued warning letters in connection with separate matters. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. An independent and accountable judiciary is indispensable to the protection of human rights and the rule of law. Judicial misconduct can deprive people of liberty, undermine fair-hearing guarantees and erode public confidence in the courts. The reported disciplinary action demonstrates the importance of institutional oversight and the NJC's role in maintaining judicial standards.

9



Soludo Attributes Anambra Road Failures to Flooding and Underground Water

Anambra State Governor Professor Chukwuma Soludo attributed the failure of sections of road projects across the state to natural disasters, underground water and unfavourable weather conditions. The explanation was communicated through the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Okey Ezeobi, who also referred to factors including heavy rainfall, drainage problems, overloaded vehicles and other human activities. The state government's position followed public criticism of the condition of some road projects. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Reliable roads and public infrastructure are closely connected to the enjoyment of socio-economic rights and access to essential services, including healthcare, education, livelihoods and safe mobility. Where public works deteriorate prematurely, citizens may face safety risks, transport disruption and additional financial burdens. Environmental conditions can affect infrastructure, but they do not remove the responsibility of public authorities to ensure proper planning, procurement, construction supervision and maintenance. The state government should make available relevant project specifications, quality-assurance records, contractor obligations and independent assessments of affected roads.

RIGHTS AT RISK

The developments in this issue engage a range of civil, political and socio-economic rights. The table below identifies the principal rights and explains their relevance to the reported developments.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to participate in public affairs and vote	Women's reserved-seat and 35% representation proposals concern equal access to political decision-making. Voter-register accuracy, polling-unit transparency and fair campaign conditions are essential to meaningful electoral participation.
Equality and non-discrimination	Measures to increase women's representation respond to structural barriers to equal participation. Electoral and law-enforcement institutions must also apply rules impartially, without discrimination based on political affiliation, sex or other status.
Freedom of expression and access to information	Campaign materials, political debate and reliable election information enable voters to form opinions and engage in public affairs. Responses to disinformation must not suppress legitimate criticism or journalism.
Right to liberty and fair hearing	The NJC findings concerning unlawful detention and procedural violations underline the importance of lawful judicial processes, timely hearings and effective remedies.
Right to life, dignity and personal security	Any future state-policing framework must contain safeguards against excessive force, arbitrary detention and politically motivated enforcement. Protection of political actors from intimidation is also essential.
Right to an effective remedy and access to justice	Judicial accountability, transparent voter-registration review and accessible complaints mechanisms allow individuals to challenge rights violations and administrative errors.
Socio-economic rights and access to essential services	Road quality and public infrastructure affect safe mobility and access to healthcare, education, livelihoods and other services. Public authorities remain accountable for responsible use of public resources.

TAP INSIGHT

Women's Political Inclusion, Electoral Integrity and Institutional Accountability: Testing Nigeria's Democratic Commitments Ahead of 2027

The developments recorded this week reveal two connected questions at the centre of Nigeria's democratic preparations: who gets to participate in governance, and whether the institutions responsible for managing public power can command public confidence. The proposals to reserve legislative seats for women and to establish a 35 per cent representation target recognise that women's exclusion from decision-making cannot be addressed by formal guarantees alone. The challenge now is to turn these announcements into clear, enforceable and accountable measures. Without transparent design, implementation timelines and monitoring, affirmative-action commitments risk remaining political statements rather than practical routes to equal participation.

At the same time, the concerns surrounding AI, deepfakes and the preliminary voters' register show that electoral integrity increasingly depends on the quality of information and data systems. Technology may improve administrative efficiency, but it cannot substitute for transparency, human oversight and accessible remedies. INEC's disclosure that a substantial number of records were flagged for review makes the December certification deadline particularly important. The Commission must explain what was flagged, what was confirmed invalid, what was corrected and how eligible voters can ensure that their details remain accurate. The allegations about additional polling units also require a clear, evidence-based response rather than silence or partisan speculation.

The calls for verified chatbots and rapid-response systems are useful only if they strengthen public access to trustworthy information. Electoral authorities should not become the sole arbiters of acceptable political speech. Independent media, civil society organisations, researchers and citizens must retain the space to question official decisions and scrutinise electoral processes. The appropriate response to false information is timely disclosure, verifiable evidence and proportionate action, and not blanket restrictions that may chill expression.

The state-police amendment and the Police directive on campaign materials bring the conduct of security institutions into sharper focus. A decentralised policing model may improve responsiveness, but it must be accompanied by strong safeguards against political capture and abuse. Similarly, action against the destruction of campaign materials will protect political competition only if the Police enforce the law consistently across parties and candidates. The NJC's disciplinary action reinforces a parallel point: institutions must be both independent and accountable. Public authority is legitimate when it is exercised within the law and subject to effective oversight.

Finally, the debate over Anambra State's road failures illustrates that accountability is not limited to election periods. Public infrastructure affects daily life and the ability of people to access essential services. Government explanations should be supported by transparent technical assessments and clear information about remedial action. As the country moves closer to the 2027 elections, citizens should be able to assess not only political promises, but also the performance and accountability of public institutions.

LOOKING AHEAD

The coming weeks will be important for determining whether the proposals and institutional responses highlighted in this issue translate into practical safeguards. Tap Initiative will continue to monitor the following areas:

- Track the constitutional review process for reserved legislative seats for women and seek clarity on the proposed eligibility, selection, duration and accountability arrangements.
- Follow INEC's voter-register clean-up ahead of the 15 December 2026 certification date, with attention to the distinction between flagged records and confirmed invalid registrations.
- Seek transparent clarification from INEC on allegations concerning additional polling units and ensure that any changes are publicly documented and open to scrutiny.
- Monitor INEC's plans for AI-assisted election management, including safeguards for data protection, human oversight, accuracy and public accountability.
- Assess the development of verified voter-information channels and rapid-response mechanisms, ensuring that they remain accessible and do not restrict legitimate expression.
- Follow the constitutional and legislative steps required for the establishment of state police and scrutinise the proposed accountability, oversight and human rights safeguards.
- Monitor the Police response to the destruction of campaign materials and assess whether enforcement is impartial and consistent with due process.
- Continue tracking judicial accountability and the availability of remedies for litigants affected by misconduct or procedural violations.
- Seek public information on the assessment and rehabilitation of failed road projects in Anambra, including the role of contractors, quality control and public expenditure.