This Facebook post claiming that over 1,000 voter cards were collected and handed over to local leaders in South Ethiopia is MISSING CONTEXT.

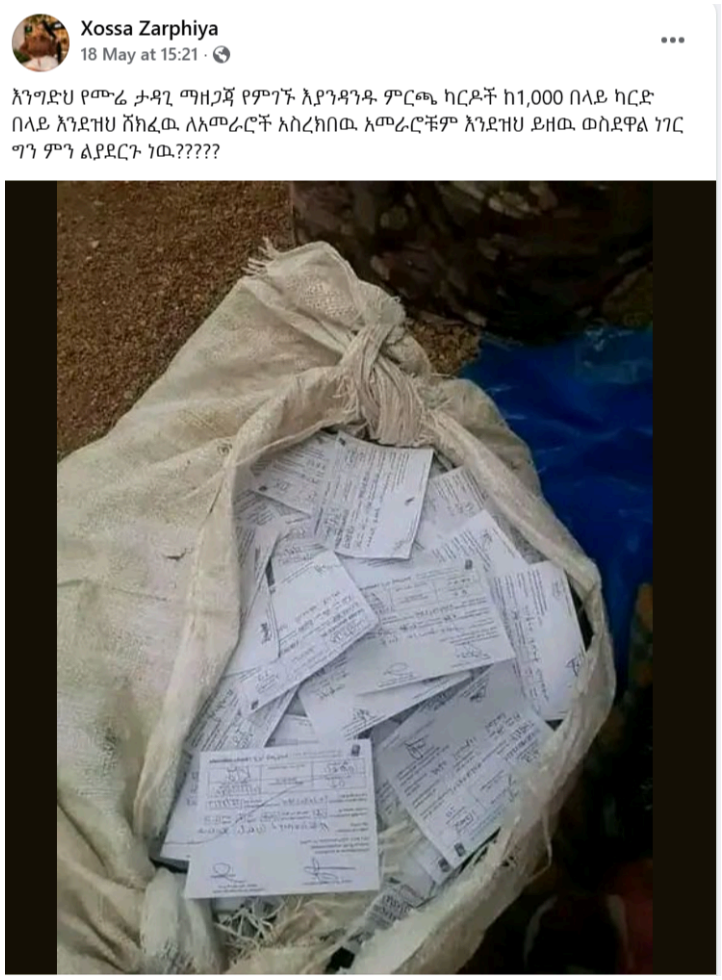
The Image has been online since 2021.

MISSING CONTEXT: Claim that the image shows voter cards being collected and transferred to local leaders in South Ethiopia is misleading.

The image has been online since 2021.

This Facebook post claiming that over 1,000 voter cards were collected and handed over to local leaders in South Ethiopia is MISSING CONTEXT.

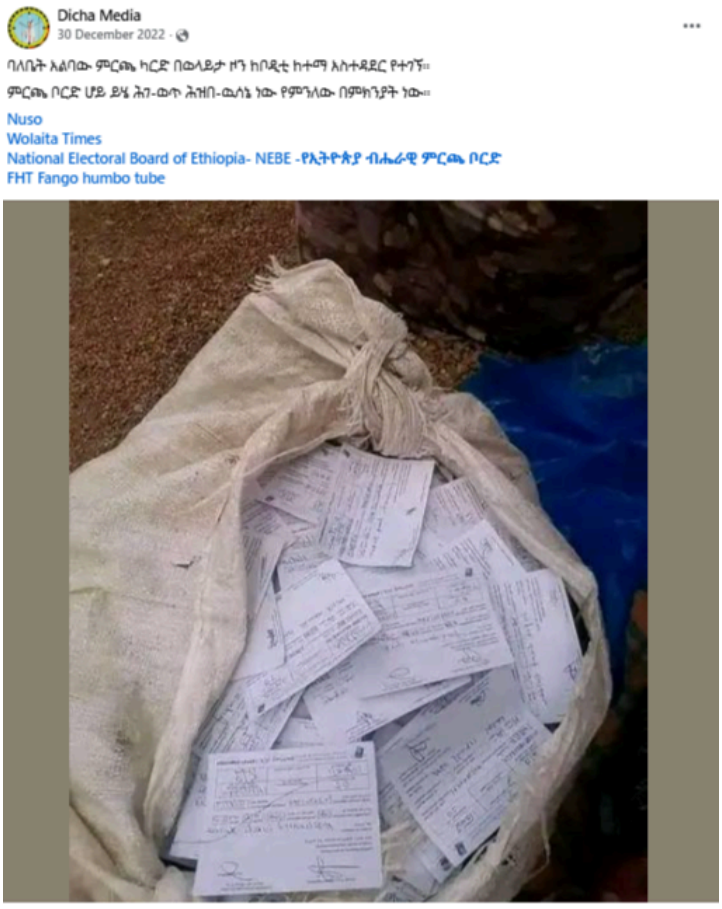
The Image was published on this Facebook Page on 18 May 2026; the Amharic post reads, “So, every single voter card found in the Mure municipality packed up like this in quantities of over 1,000 cards has been handed over to the leaders, and the leaders have taken them away like this. But what are they going to do with them?????”.



A similar Image also shared on X on May 21, 2026.

However, results from a Google reverse image search show that the photo referenced in the claim was originally posted in April 2021.

The Image was published on this Facebook post on 30th , December 2022, claiming that "*An ownerless" voter card was found in the Wolaita Zone, in Boditi City Administration.*



Moreover, the same image was published on the Facebook page linked to the image, along with Soomaali, which reads "*Election complaints! These photos and others have been circulating on social media since yesterday. It has been claimed that the cards were handed over to the country's electoral commission.*

The same image was published on this Facebook Page on 2 January 2023, with a claim that identification information from Wolaita Sodo University students was being used to register voters for a referendum.

These allegations come as Ethiopia's 7th General Election on 1 June 2026. Meanwhile, reports show that more than 50 million voters have registered for the upcoming 7th General Election, including 45.1 million through manual registration processes, while the remaining voters were registered digitally. The voter registration process concluded on April 22, 2026.

Concerns surrounding the credibility of the election have also been raised by opposition parties. In a joint statement issued in January 2026, eight opposition political parties questioned the inclusiveness and credibility of the electoral process, citing challenges observed during the early stages of candidate registration.

Reports and public concerns regarding voter registration irregularities have also circulated ahead of Ethiopia's 7th General Election. The National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) previously stated that it had received reports of unlawful practices, including coercive tactics linked to access to social services, employment benefits, and salary payments during voter registration.

Ethiopia held the 7th general election on June 1, 2026.

Addis Powerhouse has looked into a Facebook post with images claiming to show voter cards were collected and handed over to local leaders in South Ethiopia and finds it to be MISSING CONTEXT.

****

This fact-check was produced by Hildana Endale a Journalist at Addis Powerhouse *as part of the African Fact-Checking Alliance's (AFCA) incubation programme. It was produced with peer-mentorship from Code for Africa's fact-checking initiative, PesaCheck, with financial support from Norway. AFCA mentorship respects the journalistic independence of the researchers, offering access to advanced techniques and tools. Editorial decision-making remains with* Addis Powerhouse*. Want to learn more? Visit: https://factcheck.africa/*