



Nigeria: Etiebet Denies N300m Bribe

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The All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANNPP) National Chairman, Chief Don Etiebet, has denied string of allegation bordering on financial dealings.

Etiebet is alleged to have collected N300 million from President Olusegun Obasanjo for the administration of the party without disclosing the donation to other party leaders.

There is another allegation that the former Military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, donated N10 million to the party.

Also, Etiebet was accused of financial recklessness and hatching a plan to expel the presidential candidate of the party in last year's election, Major General Muhammadu Buhari(rtd).

But in a swift reaction, Etiebet denied ever collecting N300 million in special grant from Obasanjo and another N10 million from Babangida for the purposes of running the national secretariat of the party.

Etiebet, who is still recuperating from surgical operations in a London hospital said it was not true that he was reckless with party funds as reported by a weekly magazine last week.

"I want to state herewith emphatically and conscientiously that on my honour, as a Christian, I swear by the Holy Bible that no time have I, Don Etiebet, collected N300 million from the Presidency, any organ or agency or persons acting on behalf of the Presidency either for my party, ANPP, for any purpose or on behalf of any body or person or myself since I became the National Chairman of ANPP, till today as I am writing this press release," he said in a statement faxed from his London base.

Though, Etiebet in the statement claimed that the allegation that N300 million was given to him came from the office of the Special Adviser to the President on Inter Party Affairs, the ANPP chief challenged Chief Rochas Okorochoa to give details of how he collected the grant on behalf of the party.

However, Okorochoa in an interview with THISDAY denied ever facilitating the special grant of N300 million to ANPP for the purpose of running the secretariat.

He said " this is news to me. Please leave me out of this."

Also, on the allegation that another N10 million was given to him by Babangida, Etiebet said, "In fact this is the first time I have heard that IBB gave ANPP money and that he donated N10 million. I want to state categorically herewith that I was not aware of this donation, when it was done nor if it was given to my predecessor in office Governor Athahiru Bafarawa (of Sokoto State)."

Etiebet said that Bafarawa as the chairman of the party's finance committee did not disclose to him whether he received any N10 million donation from the former military president.

On allegation of financial recklessness on his part, Etiebet said, "all expenditures of the party are documented and there are two signatures at any one time to the accounts of the party. Our constitution empowers the National Chairman to finally approve all expenditures. All such approvals are in the party expenditures."