

Power probe: Bribery allegation, cheap blackmail — Elumelu

Written by Austin Ogwuda
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CHAIRMAN of the House of Representatives Committee on Power and Energy, Mr. Ndudi Elumelu says it was an insult to link members of his committee to the alleged bribe scandal, noting that it was a ploy to distract attention so that the report will not see the light of the day.

Elumelu stated this at IsseleUku, Delta State yesterday shortly after presenting 20 motorcycles and 50 sewing machines to the people of Aniocha as part of his ongoing empowerment programme and the inauguration of the PDP executive in Aniocha local government area of the state led by Ogbuefi Nnamdi Mohanye.

His words “there is nothing that can dampen us (committee) because I believe that what is happening is mere cheap blackmail in order for them to distract the leadership of the House so that the report will not be laid on the table. But I can assure you that the leadership of the house are disciplined and people of high integrity and we owe it to Nigerians to ensure that the report is made public to Nigerians.

“We have got our report and we have looked into the report and we are waiting the house to list it in the order of the day so that we can present it before the house at plenary.

“As far I am concerned, that is rubbish. Let me clearly state that it is an insult on my committee members for them to think that if we want to ask for anything if at all that we should ask for anything or issue pertaining to Nigerians. Nigerians have suffered as a result of power epilepsy.

“Most Nigerians have died because there is not electricity. I am sure you are aware of kerosene explosion. All these things were caused because there is no electricity. If they had electricity they will not be buying kerosene to energize their lanterns...

“Anybody who takes bribe in respect of this power probe is taking blood money and the blood of Nigerians that have died in the course of this power epilepsy will go after them”, he stated.

On the issue of the division among the committee members, he said “ don’t think there is any but if at all it is not possible that in every home everybody must agree . There is also provision for anybody who disagrees to make his minority report.

Asked if there was any attempt to influence his committee, he said, “well here and there yes, people pleaded people lobbied, begging us to help them to save them and we said if you want to be saved go back to where they gave you the contract, either you refund the money or you do the needful and the needful is to execute the project”.

On why former President Olusegun Obasanjo did not appear in person, he said, “if you look at section 88, 89 it is very clear on the mode of submission of evidences. One talks about physical appearance the other one talks about providing information.

“He made a submission and his submission to us was enough to also review all the claims and all the insinuation and all the accusations vis-a-vis what people came up with before.

“I will advise that as soon as the report is made available the President should go through our report, we did a very thorough job. We also looked at the short term, the medium term and the long term that will enable us to have electricity”, he added.