

National News

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Museveni unwilling to be part of Jews war based on tribal conflict

BY ANDREW BAGALA

KAMPALA. President Museveni has said he is unwilling to participate in the wars between the Jews and its neighbours that are based on tribal differences.

Mr Museveni made the remarks during the 45th Tarehe Sita thanksgiving at the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs headquarters in Mbuya, Kampala, as the United States and Israel are carrying out strikes against Iran.

"We need to understand those tribes. Were they tribal fights or spiritual fights? Because God was supporting the Jews because they were believing in God while the other ones were believing in pagans. So there, I will be part of that war – the spiritual war between paganism and believing in God," Mr Museveni said.

eni said. "But the tribal fights among the Jews and their neighbours, I don't know whether I want to be part of those fights."

The 45th Tarehe Sita thanksgiving event was to celebrate when the National Resistance Army/Movement (NRA/M) started an armed struggle against the then sitting government on February 6, 1981. The NRA/M captured power five years later, and they have retained it since.

Thanksgiving was held at the time when war between Israel alongside the US and Iran was going on.

Many Christians believe that they are obliged to support Israel in its fight against its Arab and Persian neighbours on grounds that God ordered them to do so in the Old Testament in the bible.

But Mr Museveni said the crucifixion of Jesus Christ ended the conflict between

the Jews and Gentile, and united them.

"Our interpretation that time was Jesus has united the Jews and Gentiles," Mr Museveni said and cited the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Bible where Jesus defined a neighbour as anyone in need rather than race or creed.

God's hand

On the Ugandan issues, Mr Museveni said the NRA rebel group he led wouldn't have won the war without God's help.

He highlighted the need to teach future generations about the nation's challenges and history.

"My Bazzukulu today have not seen the shortages, killings, brutalities of old armies, impassable roads, or early childhood deaths. We must continue to address poverty, corruption, poor roads, education gaps, and health sector issues,"

Mr Museveni added.

He said they have land secured to build a museum dedicated to the resistance, ensuring that future generations understand the struggles of their country and the lessons they carry.

"We got some land, we are going to build a museum of the resistance so that we give the information to the new generation about the problems of their country and the efforts that were extended," he said.

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Mr Jacob Oboth Oboth, said the thanksgiving ceremony to reflect, collect, and renew their commitment to national goals and milestones achieved over the years.

"With the theme of defending the gains and sacrifices of our national fighters, we come together to thank God for

the many blessings bestowed upon our country," Mr Oboth said.

The Retired Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Uganda, Archbishop Luke Orombi, prayed for its continued commitment to its calling.

"I thank God for our national army. May you continue to remain a people's army, guided by purpose and faith," he said.

The deputy Commander of Defence Forces (D/CDF), Lt Gen Sam Okiding, who represented Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the CDF, said the 45th Tarehe Sita celebrations were a moment to reflect on Uganda's progress and honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

"We celebrated our 45th Tarehe Sita in Kabale under the theme of defending and protecting the gains of the revolution, and honouring the sacrifices of the freedom fighters," Lt Gen Okiding said.