

Museveni, British military students discuss Africa's development

By David Lumu

President Yoweri Museveni has urged Britain to explore common areas of co-operation with Uganda to boost investment, tourism and security.

Speaking to a visiting delegation of students and staff from the British Advanced Commanders' Staff College on Tuesday at State House, Entebbe, Museveni said the British and Uganda armies have common areas of interest.

"We share a common platform of liberalism and tolerance," he said in his

response to various questions from the visiting military students, who were led by Col. Martin Mackey of the British Royal Navy.

The delegation is on a five-day study tour of Uganda.

The army delegation, which toured the Uganda Air Defence headquarters in Entebbe, will also visit the Singo-based Peace Support Operations facility and the Uganda Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka in Jinja.

Africa's problem

The President, who said the Uganda People's Defence

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Museveni said Africa's biggest bottleneck was emphasising identity at the expense of interests. He said there was a number of bankrupt leaders who promote this kind of ideology, thus sustaining conflict.

Forces (UPDF) is on an evolutionary journey into a modern army, also used the occasion to give an outlook of Africa's journey and why it

lags behind other continents in development.

"From my understanding and having been involved in issues concerning Africa, I have identified 10 strategic bottlenecks.

Identity over interests

"First is the issue of emphasising identity at the expense of interests. Europe at some stage had this problem, for instance, the conflicts between Catholics and Protestants. But they overcame them," he said.

"Africa has had a number of bankrupt leaders who promote

this kind of ideology and thus sustain this conflict. Identity is good, we should know who we are. But we must ask what our interests are," Museveni added, saying that for Africa to grow, the interest of the citizens should focus on prosperity through the production of goods and services.

"To counter sectarianism, the NRM government promotes patriotism and Pan-Africanism," he said.

The other bottleneck, Museveni said, was the small fragmented markets "which cannot sustain and stimulate mass production, creating a

problem for the producers and service providers. Africa cannot, therefore, favourably compete with other continents".

The President also said technological advancement had uprooted the original African problems, such as malaria, which badly affected Africa's development.

Somalia question

Museveni said the political situation in Somalia will normalise in the next decade, adding that the Somali political factions can be mobilised to come together through students' movements.