

Angry Museveni Tells Off His Critics*

On the day Dr Kizza Besigye was arrested, President Museveni officiated at the closing of the two-day post-election conference of the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda at Hotel Africana.

The President was in a combative mood, telling off his critics on several issues. The slightly abridged article below, sent to us by the President's press unit, captures his take on various subjects.

President Museveni has said the real problem of Africa is lack of basic infrastructure such as electricity which is a major cure for poverty, saying no country can modernise and create jobs without energy.

"One of the things Africans should have done, including yourselves, is to think about electricity. You cannot modernise unless you have electricity," he said.

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The President was chief guest at the closure of the two-day post – election 2011 conference organised by the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) at Hotel Africana held under the theme, 'Working together for a sustainable peace, national building and national reconciliation.'

The conference brought together key stakeholders, including senior religious and political leaders, academicians, media experts, heads of security agencies, development partners, civil society organisations and cultural leaders from around the country.

The President was irked by what he described as lies spread by some academicians.

"I hear you had a professor here called Oloka Onyango. This is a gentleman who has been feeding poison to our children at the university – lies, lies, lies. He is teaching in a public university, paid for by the government, he is always telling lies.

Yet he calls this a dictatorship. As if he has never heard of dictatorships. If this government was a dictatorship, that professor would not be in that university, not even for one day. But the lies continue and we continue telling the truth," he said.

* This article was first published in *Observer*, a Kampala newspaper, 30 April 2011.
