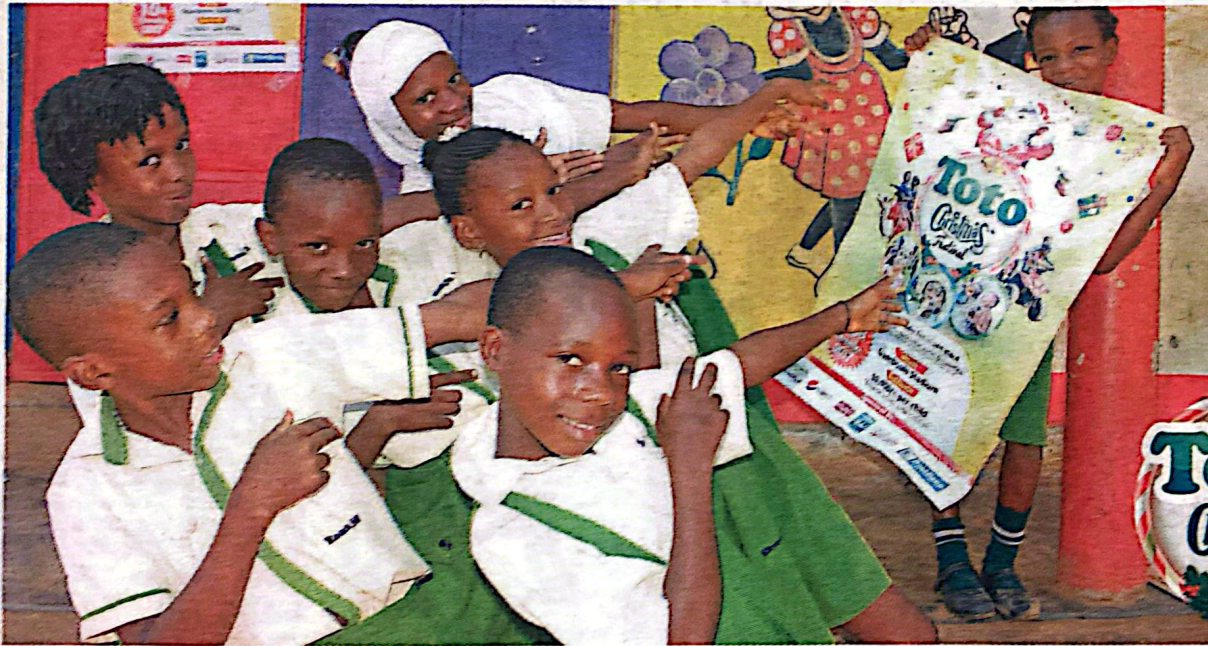
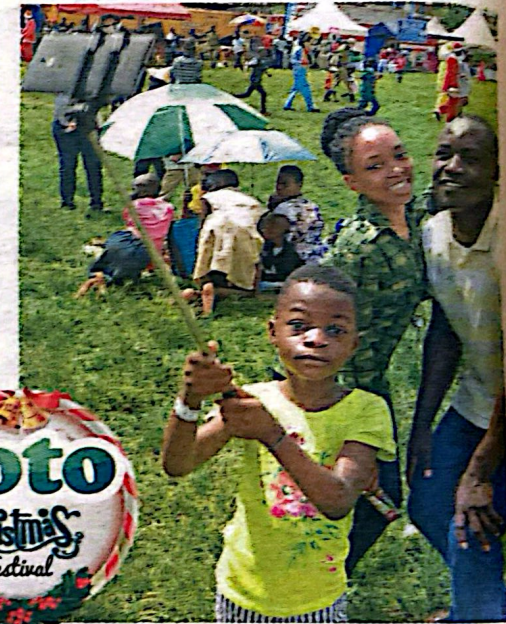


THIS SUNDAY IS GOING TO BE FUN-FILLED AT NAMBOOLE AS CHILDREN CELEBRATE THEIR TOTO FESTIVAL



Top Quality Junior School pupils eager to attend the Toto Christmas Festival at Namboole on Sunday. Photo by Tony Rujuta



A boy taking a selfie during last year's Toto Festival at Lugogo Rugby Grounds in Kampala

Parents, come play with the kids at festival

By Grace Namplima

In one of the many birthday stories we published in *Toto* magazine this year, Angel Musimenta, a nine-year-old girl, wrote about her sister, Crystal Kemanzi's birthday party. She animatedly described the nice food, the cake, the play activities, but above all, she said it was fun playing with her parents.

Dear parents, our children love to play with us. Children will not remember what you bought for them or how comfortable the house was. Later in life they will always cherish the time

PLAY WITH CHILDREN

“WHEN I get a chance of attending an event, such as the Toto Festival, where no one will judge me because I am an adult jumping up and down with children or fellow adults, then I do my best to go back home when I have shed off some weight,” advises Namplima.

this Sunday at the 2017 Toto Christmas Festival organised by Vision Group at

in Namboole, Wakiso district.

I got an amazing revelation recently during one of the school activations the Toto team was carrying out. As we were busy telling children to come to the festival, a teacher approached me and said during their 'time', there were no bouncing castles, no merry-go-rounds and no camel rides. "And, if they happened to exist, they were too expensive for the common person to afford," she went on to say.

I appreciated her statement because my experience was not any different because I have never been on a bouncing castle myself, never enjoyed a ride on a camel and have never

and round on a merry-go-round.

I grew up with loving parents, but after chatting with that teacher, it dawned on me that there is no single day I played *kwepena* (dodgeball) with my mother or football with my father. We used to play board games, such as ludo, snakes and ladders, scrabble and monopoly and that was it.

This could be the reason I am fixated when it comes to playing. When I get a chance of attending an event, such as the Toto Festival, where no one will judge me because I am an adult jumping up and down with children or fellow adults, then I do my best to go back home when I have shed off some weight.

I want things to be different with my children, so we physically play and break some sweat. My children, young as they are, know that they have a playmate in their tough mother. We even play football and hide and seek at home. When I get an opportunity of taking them to jump up and down on a bouncing castle, I embrace it.

Parents, just this once, get off the serious phone calls, plans and projects and put on your playing shoes! Give your child the best treat this year. Roll with them in the grass and make memories that they will carry all their lives.

The Toto Festival is one of the places to achieve this. See you there!