



Tracy Mbabazi, who danced her way to victory, scooped sh500,000 and other goodies from Lato Milk and Indomie during the Toto Christmas Festival yesterday. On the right is Vision Group head of marketing and communication, Lorraine Tukahirwa. (Scan image using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)



'Toto' magazine editor Grace Nampiima (second-right) joins Yvonne Majourine Baluka (centre) and her parent after the child won sh500,000 in the colouring competition yesterday at Kampala Parents' School playground

By Jacky Achan

The Toto Christmas Festival 2025, held yesterday at Kampala Parents' School playground, was a vibrant celebration of creativity, talent and community spirit.

The festival attracted a large crowd of children who participated in a variety of competitions, including dance, singing, painting and the prestigious Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

With sh3m in cash and kind prizes up for grabs, the event was not only an exciting platform for young artistes and performers, but it was also an opportunity for them to showcase their potential and passion.

MBABAZI SHINES IN DANCE

The dancing competition was one of the highlights of the festival, with six-year-old Tracy Mbabazi from Grammar Nursery and Primary School, Kiwatule (Kampala), emerging as the winner.

The young dancer, who will be joining Top Class next year, impressed the judges with her energetic performance, taking home a cash prize of sh500,000.

In second place was Alicia Namulawa, who secured sh200,000, while the participants in the third to seventh places were awarded sh100,000 each.

The other winners in the dance category included Rehema Namubiru, Sharuwah Namukwaya, Esther Wamasiko, Patience Achieng and Patricia Mirembe.

In addition to the cash prizes, all the winners received goodies from Toto Christmas Festival sponsors including Sumz Snacks, Indomie Noodles and Lato Milk, making the event even more rewarding for the talented young participants.

In the singing competition,

TOTO FESTIVAL CLIMAXES WITH FUN, PRIZES



Musician Daxx Kartel entertaining the children during the Toto Christmas Festival

ABOUT CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION

Amid the festivities, Catherine Ruhweza, the chief executive officer of Mama Tendo Foundation, took a moment to address the children on an important topic: Self-protection and personal boundaries.

She urged the children to be aware of their bodies and avoid situations where they might be harmed.

"No one should touch your private parts. If anyone tries to, say 'no' and do not allow it to happen. Protect yourselves and love your bodies," Ruhweza said.

She also encouraged the children not to share their beds with others, as it might expose them to harmful situations.

Furthermore, Ruhweza called on parents to make the most of the holiday season by spending quality time with their children, away from the distractions of work and social media.

"While making money is important, it's equally important to spend time with our children and protect them from harm," she said.

Melanie Kwagala was crowned the winner, taking home a cash prize of sh200,000.

The performance captivated the audience, showcasing the depth of talent and vocal ability

among the young participants.

The singing competition provided a unique opportunity for children to shine and express their passion for music.

PAINTING COMPETITION

Yvonne Majourine Baluka, with an impressive score of 95% in painting, won the top prize of sh500,000. Her work stood out for its excellent use of colour and composition.

Adriel Mulinda, with a score of 90%, came in second place, taking home sh300,000, while Alice Esther Nattabi

secured third place with a score of 88% for her neat and detailed artwork, winning sh200,000.

The remaining places from fourth to eighth were awarded sh100,000 each, with winners including Wendy Nakakembo, Victoria Giibwa, Britney Nakayiza, Eliana Mirembe Lwanga, and Pretty Namayanja.

TOYOTA DREAM CAR CONTEST

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, which is in its 19th edition, was another major highlight of the festival.

Organised by CFAO Mobility

Uganda, the contest provided young artists with an opportunity to envision the future of mobility. Children aged 15 and under participated in this global competition, expressing their creative ideas through drawings of cars that could change the world.

Innocent Ziraba, the tender expert at CFAO Mobility Uganda, said the contest aims at inspiring children to think about the future of transportation and develop innovative ideas that could transform how people move in the years to come.

The top three winners in each age category will not only win school fees worth sh2m, but will also earn the chance to represent Uganda at the World Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, where they will compete for global recognition and additional prizes.

"This contest is about planting the seeds for tomorrow's innovations," Isaac Tegule, the marketing manager of CFAO Mobility Uganda, said.

ENTERTAINMENT

The children were treated to performances by singer Daxx Kartel and young DJ Barbie Love from Masaka, creating an exciting atmosphere. The festival also featured a variety of games, food sampling and prizes from sponsor partners, including Dairyland Uganda.

For just sh10,000 entry fee, the attendees had the chance to enjoy the day's events. The festival was sponsored by Ruparelia Group, Sumz Snacks, National Identification and Registration Authority, Toyota, Pepsi, and Indomie Noodles.

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