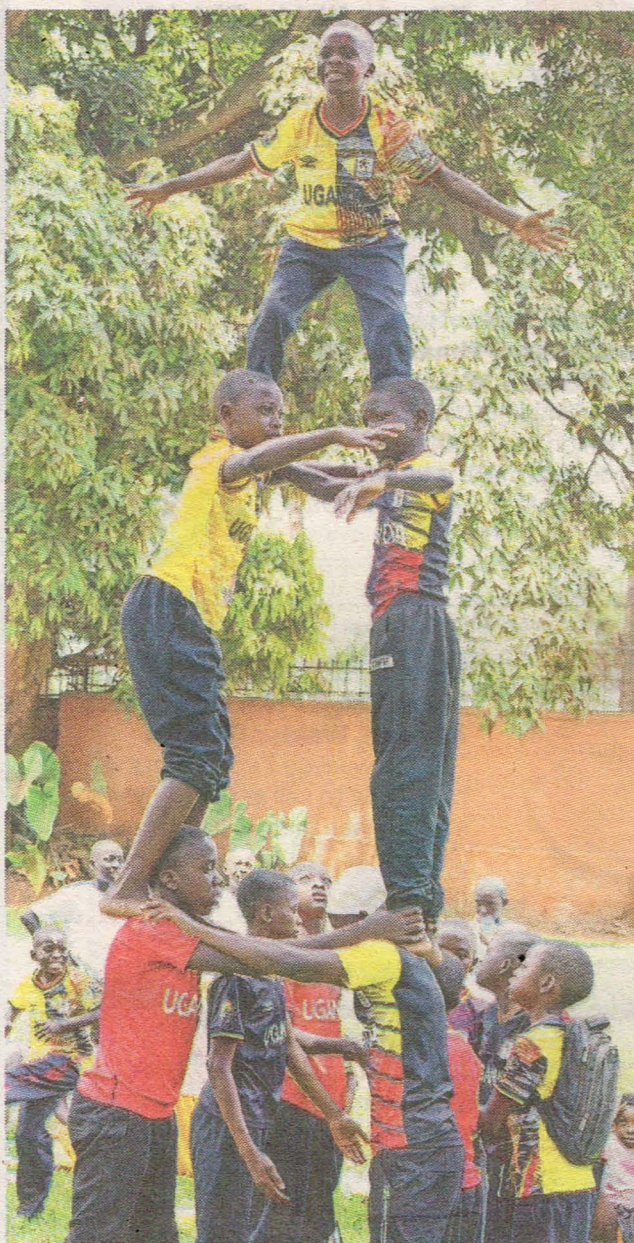




Some of the children display their reasons for attending the festival. PHOTOS/FRED MUZAALÉ



Children showcase their acrobatic skills.

## Inspiring the next generation of young authors

BY GEOFFREY MUTUMBA

**O**n December 5, the Read to Learn Foundation in partnership with Nation Media Group hosted the Books and Beats Colour Run and Festival at Revive Wellness Clinic in Kololo. The colourful event brought together children, educators, parents, and partners with a shared mission of nurturing a reading culture and empowering young authors across Uganda.

The festival was part of an ambitious campaign of raising one million books, which will be distributed to children living with disabilities such as the blind and deaf, children in hard-to-reach communities including refugee settlements. The goal of this campaign is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background or ability has equal access to reading materials and opportunities for literacy growth.

Children gathered at Revive Wellness Clinic and participated in a variety of engaging activities that included colour splash, art, tug of war competitions, spelling bee and other creative challenges. Winners in each category were awarded books to encourage their love for reading and spark their imagination.

According to Mr. Gilbert Happy Leetutte, the head of partnerships at Read to Learn Foundation, festivals like these help them to meet, nature and mentor young authors. "Our goal is to motivate children to embrace reading and writing, and eventually inspire them to become authors of their own storybooks," he noted.

One of the best participants in the sack race enjoys a moment.





# Events happening | Rainbow



Racing for fun in sacks.



A child receives a copy of a book after wining in the Spelling Bee competitions.



Children having a colour splash party time.



Musical chairs were fun too.



The different winners in the Spelling Bee competition were awarded books to read.



Children take part in a puzzle game.



Participants take part in a tug of war contest.



Pupils from Nakasero School of the Blind enjoy a photo moment after receiving books.