

If you wanted to see the whole of Uganda, culturally, you ought to have attended this festival

Ugandan theatre comes alive

By Elvis Basudde Kyeyune

UNTIL the Emoriklon Troupe set off from Karamoja on the morning of September 19, they did not believe they were going to the 'UITA Millennium Festival' in Kampala.

They had been disappointed before, according to their leader Ocello Abedian.

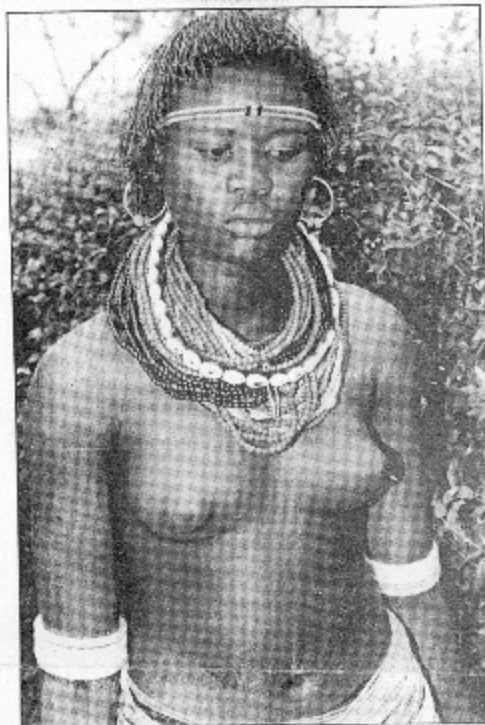
"We reached the departure place, our bags packed, musical instruments and everything ready, and then it hit us. We were really leaving Moroto. It was only then that we started getting excited about the trip. It was going to be our first time to leave Karamoja, for the Capital City of Uganda.

"This would also be the first time we had played to an audience outside Karamoja," said the leader of the 30 member Emoriklon group, that represented Moroto district.

The four-day long National Cultural Festival, which took place from September 2 to 6, held at the National Theatre Gardens, was rated one of the largest, open air festivals of Uganda's diverse musical, dance, drama and cultural heritage.

It brought together over 50 groups from 30 districts in Uganda which were selected after sub county and district competitions.

There were also groups from Kenya, Italy, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. If you wanted to see the whole of Uganda, culturally, you ought to have attended this festival. All the cultural wealth hidden in Uganda was unearthed for the first time when an array of Ugandan talents and creativity that is hard-



HAVE A LOOK: A young Karimojong girl modelling the courtship dress



INTERNATIONAL: A group from Italy featured at the Millennium Festival

ELVIS BASUDDI KYEYUNE