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DON LAKA CHOOSES ESWATINI OVER WORLD

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Nombuso Dlamini

MBABANE – South African Jazz legend, Don Laka visited the Times of Eswatini, for an exclusive interview yesterday.

He is slated to perform at the Sibebe Resort on Sunday. The artist shared with this publication that he chose to perform in the country for the International Jazz Day which is celebrated worldwide. “I had the option to go anywhere in the world, but I chose Eswatini because I am comfortable here. I wanted to give such a big celebration a platform in this country, hoping that from this year it will continue to grow seeing how it has gained momentum in the whole world,” said the Jazz legend. Don Laka arrived in the kingdom yesterday, he is here for the Jazzy Soul Sunday.

Highlight

The show will be celebrating International Jazz Day, which was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in 2011. ‘to highlight Jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe’. It is celebrated annually on April 30.

The concept came with from Jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock. Nearly 200 countries participate in International Jazz Day every year. In addition to concerts and jam sessions, events include workshops, conferences and community outreach initiatives.

Worth

The legend expressed that he loved Eswatini and spent most of his time in the country, he even joked that the venue where he will be performing is right in his backyard. It is also worth mentioning that the legend shared with this publication that Eswatini was his other home as he married a liSwati from, Motshane. “Sibebe Resort is quite beautiful and historic and it is right in my backyard. “I have been all over the world and I have never seen such beauty, cold but it is an amazing place and the cold is similar to where my wife is from, which is Motshane.”

Laka mentioned how this upcoming performance was going to be a good concert and he was given the platform to perform as much material as he wanted. He further shared how he prepared some of his old and known songs and some of his new songs for the event. In that light, the talent in the kingdom was praised, by the Jazz artist, and said there was so much talent in the country!

Don Laka invested in Gcobani

During the 2022 MTN Bushfire Festival, Don Laka was seen on stage performing with local artist Gcobani, commonly known by his stage name, The Soul Prince. The duo thereafter worked on a couple of projects together. “I have invested all my energy in Gcobani, because I believe he is the next big thing, not only in Eswatini but in the whole African continent,” said Don Laka. He further mentioned that he is an incredible talented musician and that he would go far in the music industry. The Jazz legend has worked with a couple of artist including the mentioned Gcobani, Bholoja, saxophonist Zwile and rapper Flameboy Universe.