THE DECISION TO INVITE MAKOMA WAS DELIBERATE BECAUSE OF THI

'WE ARE HERE TO MAKE HISTORY'–

PHOTOS BY SIMON PETER TUMWII



(L-R) Musicians; Best Emily, Racheal K, Natalie Makoma, Sachi Basaki, Pacific Events promoter, Owen Bigombe, Vision Group CEO Don Wanyama, Pengani Makoma and the Makoma band producers shortly after a press conference at the Vision Group offices
(Scan the picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

By Ranell Dickson Nsereko

The Makoma band, who are in Kampala to launch the 40th anniversary celebrations of New Vision this Friday, March 6, at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, have said they are here to make history.

Natalia Makoma, the star vocalist of the group, revealed this during a press conference held at New Vision head offices in Kampala yesterday (Wednesday).

"This is history we are making. Coming back to Uganda (after 25 years) to celebrate with New Vision is very special to us," she said.

Makoma is a Congolese gospel band currently based in Europe. The group promised a memorable night of worship, nostalgia and celebration as New Vision prepares to celebrate 40 years of service in the country's media industry.

"We are excited to create beautiful memories with our fans as we celebrate 40 years of New Vision," the group said on arrival on Tuesday.

Uganda was the first English-speaking African country where Makoma performed, according to the group.

"As we celebrate 40 years of New Vision's journey, we do so with immense gratitude."

While welcoming them, Vision Group's chief executive officer, Don Wanyama, said for four decades New Vision has informed, educated and walked hand-in-hand with Ugandans through every chapter of the nation's story.

Singing to God comes from the heart. Sometimes people didn't think we looked like typical Christians, but we loved God and chose to sing for Him.

"This milestone belongs not only to us, but to our loyal readers, viewers, partners and the entire media fraternity that has supported us consistently over the years," he said.

He also noted that the concert is not just about entertainment, but about celebrating legacy, unity and shared values.

According to Owen Katwesigye Bigombe of Pacific Events, the decision to invite Makoma was deliberate because of the group's influence and the message behind their music.

"Makoma represent more than music. They represent nostalgia, family, faith, unity and timeless excellence. Their journey mirrors our consistency and impact rooted in values that bring people together," he said.



'Bukedde TV' news producer, Becky Cynthia Nakimera takes a selfie with the Makoma band members, Pengani Makoma and Natalie Makoma



Jesse Maurice (centre) shows Natalie Makoma (left) and Pengani a picture he took with them nine years ago when they came to Uganda

Members of the Makoma family expressed excitement about returning to Uganda, recalling the strong connection they built with Ugandan fans during their early years.

NOSTALGIC RETURN

Natalie said the return was emotional and meaningful for the group. She also shared the spiritual journey behind the group's music and success.

"Singing to God comes from the heart. Sometimes people didn't think we looked like typical Christians, but we loved God and chose to sing for Him. When we made our album, we put everything in God's hands.

We prayed and fasted for over 40 days because, as a gospel musician, you must seek God's guidance in everything you do," she explained the success behind the group.

PARTNERS CELEBRATE WITH VISION

The concert is being organised by Pacific Events. "We knew we had to deliver something memorable. We have worked closely with different partners, including Pepsi, Next Media and MTN MoMo, to ensure the event becomes a truly exceptional experience," Neema Barbara Margaret Neema, the executive director of Pacific Events, said.

Several corporate partners have als thrown their weight behind the event

Johnson Seguya, the trade marketin manager at Crown Beverages Limited makers of Pepsi, congratulated Visio Group for reaching the milestone.

"Big congratulations to Vision Grou for achieving the incredible mileston of 40 years in the media industry, Seguya said.

"As Pepsi, we are thrilled to be th official refreshment partner for thi concert."

He added that Pepsi will ensur fans remain refreshed throughout th concert by providing a wide range o beverages, including soda, water an energy drinks.