

# Feffe Bussi proves UG hip hop is far from dead

The night was not solely about Feffe. In a move that reflected the spirit of hip hop culture, emerging rappers were given a platform through rap battles staged during the break.

BY ISAAC SSEJJOMBWE

If there was any lingering questions whether Hip hop in Uganda still had a place in music books, last Saturday night at Lugogo Cricket Oval delivered a loud response.

At the centre of it all was Feffe Bussi, whose concert, aptly themed *Hip Hop Kuntiko* loosely translated as Hip Hop on Top became more than just another music show. It turned into a statement about the resilience, unity and staying power of Ugandan hip hop.

The event marked Feffe Bussi's second major concert following last year's show at Jahazi Pier in Munyonyo. This time, the rapper and organisers, Talent Africa Group, aimed bigger with Lugogo Cricket Oval, a venue that has recently been unforgiving to some hip hop concerts.

By 6pm, the venue wore a familiar look of uncertainty. There were no overwhelming crowds at the gates, only a steady trickle of fans catching performances from upcoming hip hop acts warming up the stage.

But concerts are rarely judged by first impressions. Slowly, the venue filled. By 9pm, fears of an empty arena had disappeared as most sections of the Oval buzzed with energy. The audience kept growing, proving once again that hip hop fans show up.

Unlike many performers who keep fans waiting deep into the night, Feffe Bussi wasted no time. At exactly 10pm, he stormed onto the stage with *Who Is Who*, the explosive track that stirred the industry during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

From there, he barely allowed the momentum to dip. He rolled through crowd favourites, including *Yes-No*, *Gulu*, *Gamba Chiwi*, *Bad Segu* and *History*, a politically charged track in which he references Uganda's presidents. He blended in classics like Jose Chameleone's *Owakabi* before transitioning into *Business* and *Ekyana*, even sampling Hugh Masekela's timeless *Todi*.

But the night was not solely about Feffe. In a move that reflected the spirit of hip hop culture, emerging rappers were given a platform through rap bat-

tles staged during the break. Winners walked away with promises of cash prizes and recording deals at Baboon Forest Studios, a reminder that hip hop has always thrived on mentorship and competition.

Fifteen minutes later, Feffe returned for a second set that felt more like a victory lap. The performance evolved into a mash-up of hits, including *Romantic*, *Bagala Feffe*, *Ntongo*, *Omumanyi*, *Super Lady*, *Buzibubwo*, *Rap Dada* and *Influencer*.

The collaborations added even more life to the night. Vinka, The Mith and Winnie Nwagi joined him on *Amaaso Remix*, while *Nzalina* brought out Winnie again alongside Dax Vibez.

Then came a moment that truly embodied the spirit of Ugandan rap. As the instrumental for *Still D.R.E.* echoed through the venue, Feffe was joined by hip hop heavyweights including Navio, Flex D'Paper, Big Sam and Lyrical G. It was less of a performance and more of a declaration that Ugandan hip hop remains united.

The surprises kept coming. GNL Zamba, one of the genre's most influential



Feffe Bussi (left) performed for nearly two hours uninterrupted. PHOTOS/ISAAC SSEJJOMBWE



pioneers, joined Feffe on *Koi Koi*, earning heartfelt praise from the younger rapper, who acknowledged him as a key inspiration. Nina Roz later joined in for *Omugogo*, while Party Culture brought together Nina, Karole Kasita and Coco Finger.

What stood out most throughout the night was Feffe Bussi's understanding of his audience. There were no unnecessary pauses, no prolonged backstage disappearances and no overreliance on hype men. For nearly two hours, he simply performed. The only moments he stepped back were to acknowledge sponsors, including Bond 7.

Beyond the packed venue and star-studded guest appearances, Hip Hop Kuntiko reminded revelers why hip hop still commands respect. The lyrical depth, stage energy, live collaborations and camaraderie between artists all pointed to a genre that is evolving rather than fading.

By the end of the night, the message was unmistakable. Ugandan hip hop is still alive. And if Feffe Bussi's Lugogo showcase is anything to go by, it may just be entering another golden era.