



## **MONIQ STYLEZ: CRAFTING MUSICAL MAGIC WITH A REGGAE DANCEHALL FLAVOR**

**BY RAS BANAMUNGU**

In a recent interview with the Det-n-ators International Magazine, Moniq Stylez, the rising star in the world of Reggae and Dancehall, provided insights into her musical journey, shedding light on her latest mixtape, *Trending*, and her unique approach to the art form.

**Inspiration Behind "Trending":** Moniq revealed that the inspiration behind her latest mixtape, *Trending*, stemmed from her Reggae EP released under the late Jamaican Reggae legend, Denroy Morgan. Morgan is the father of the Grammy-winning group, the Morgan Heritage, who played a pivotal role in shaping Moniq's musical direction.

**Evolution of Style:** Moniq's musical style has evolved significantly, driven by a relentless focus on perfecting her craft. She attributes her growth to a dedicated commitment to listening to and understanding the genres she loves, resulting in a refined and captivating musical style.

**The Birth of "Moniq Stylez":** The story behind Moniq's stage name is a blend of her first name, Monica, shortened to Moniq, and the addition of "Stylez" reflects her distinctive fashion sense and vibrant hairstyles. As she puts it, "I'm just stylish," encapsulating the essence of her persona.



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**Songwriting Process:** Moniq's songwriting process involves first creating the tune and then constructing meaningful lyrics around it. This has developed into a daily habit, keeping her immersed in the creative process.

**Influences from Reggae and Dancehall Icons:** As a self-proclaimed Reggae and Dancehall enthusiast, Moniq draws inspiration from a spectrum of artists, including Bob Marley, Yellow Man, Buju Banton, and contemporary figures like Popcaan, Shenseea, and Spice. These influences have left an indelible mark on her musical journey.

**Memorable Career Moments:** One standout moment for Moniq was featuring the Jamaican Reggae legend Denroy Morgan in her song "Zambezi River" and subsequently winning the Best Female Dancehall Artist at the Zed Rasta Awards in 2022.

**Live Performances and Dedication:** Approaching live performances with high spirits and unwavering dedication, Moniq ensures meticulous preparation and interaction with her band to deliver unforgettable experiences for her audience.



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**Balancing Personal and Musical Life:** For Moniq, the line between personal and musical life blurs, as she lives and breathes music. Growing up in an average family, she incorporates elements from her community into her songs, staying connected to her roots.

**Overcoming Challenges:** Moniq faced early challenges with familial support and financial constraints. Overcoming these hurdles came with meeting her current manager, and signing with Nuff Respect 28.1, marking a turning point in her career.

**Hidden Talents:** In a surprising revelation, Moniq discovered a hidden talent in acting, showcased in a local short movie titled "The Wedding Planner" in 2019.

**Music Industry Perspectives:** Reflecting on the current state of the music industry, Moniq sees a promising future for African artists globally, with collaborations and recognition on the rise.

**Empowering Through Music:** Moniq actively supports youth talent through her music and has registered an organization that collaborates with Brensly Ford from the A.S.W.A.D group, empowering small businesses.



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Words of Encouragement: Moniq leaves aspiring musicians with words of encouragement, urging them to persevere and keep their dreams alive, emphasizing that success often comes after overcoming challenges.

Moniq Stylez continues to rise, driven by her passion for Reggae and Dancehall, her unique style, and her commitment to empowering the next generation of talent.