



SLY DUNBAR VOICES DISAPPROVAL OVER CONTROVERSIAL GRAMMY SUBMISSION

BY RAS BANAMUNGU

Jamaican music icon Sly Dunbar, half of the renowned duo Sly and Robbie, has expressed dissatisfaction with the album titled "Shakespeare – The Bassman Sly, Robbie & The Team Taxi." In an exclusive interview with WMV, Dunbar distanced himself from the project, stating, "I'm not a part of it. It's just somebody that did it. I don't have anything to do with it."

Despite the album's removal from streaming platforms, it was submitted for consideration at the 2024 Grammys in the Best Reggae Album category, raising eyebrows in the music industry. Sly Dunbar, the sole living member of the twelve-time Grammy-nominated Sly and Robbie group, declared that if the album receives a nomination, he will boycott the Grammy ceremony in February.

The album, released by Japanese businessman Kazuhiki "Kaz" Asonuma, who has previously collaborated on several Sly and Robbie projects, has stirred controversy within the reggae community. Sly emphasized his disinterest in being associated with the record and expressed reluctance to attend the Grammy ceremony, citing past experiences.



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Amidst this controversy, Sly Dunbar affirmed the significance of the Grammys to reggae music's development. While disapproving of the current submission, he revealed plans to submit a new project for consideration in the following year, titled 'Red Hills Road Vol 2,' showcasing his ongoing commitment to the genre.

On a brighter note, Sly reminisced about the making of the iconic riddim "Murder She Wrote," which recently marked its 30th anniversary. He shared insights into the original Santa Barbara riddim and its transformation into a timeless collaboration with Chaka Demus and Pliers. Despite legal disputes over sampling, Sly maintained his focus on music and distanced himself from ongoing lawsuits.



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Looking ahead, Sly Dunbar unveiled plans for the upcoming album 'Red Hills Road Vol 2,' serving as a tribute to the late Robbie Shakespeare. This project follows their 2020 album, 'Red Hills Road Vol 1,' which paid homage to Jamaica's 1970s cultural hotspot.

In conclusion, while Sly Dunbar remains entangled in controversy over the questionable Grammy submission, his unwavering commitment to reggae music and the promise of new projects underscore his enduring influence in the industry.