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Zambia is behind you, Shamenda assures artistes

By Edwin Mbulo and pictures by Joseph Mwenda on Friday 30 August 2013, 14:00:00 CAT (1974 Reads)



Victor Kabova joins his cousin Estele Chisha and family for a photograph after the model won the Miss Culture Zambia 2013 beauty contest at Chrismar Hotel in Livingstone on Monday - Picture by Joseph Mwenda

LIVINGSTONE has been turned into a big musical and cultural arts festival venue, with chief Ndungu hosting a mini-Likumbi Lyamize ceremony.

The festivities have been held in the tourist capital alongside the UNWTO's 20th General Assembly at no fee.

However, musicians have taken advantage of the general assembly to hold shows at a fee at Eastpoint and Limpos Restaurant.

The UNWTO general assembly, which officially opened in Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls town on Monday, was graced by presidents of Zambia and Zimbabwe Michael Sata and Robert Mugabe respectively, accompanied by the first ladies of both countries.

The event in Zimbabwe was graced by legendary South African jazz maestro Hugh Masekela who joked that he hailed from Zimbabwe.

At Chrismar Hotel during the Miss Culture Zambia 2013 pageant, labour minister Fackson Shamenda, who was accompanied by information permanent secretary Amos Malupenga, said the event attracted two contestants from each of Zambia's ten provinces. "We look forward to representing Zambia. Whatever you do, you should know that Zambia is behind you and I would like to thank the Russian Embassy for offering a scholarship to one of the contestants. It was not only about the beauty but the judges were looking at the intellect," Shamenda said.

Ann-Marie Vincent, 24, of Choma took the crown as Miss Culture, while Kalwa Musonda and Estella Chisha were first and second princesses respectively. The Miss Personality title went to Brandina Kaonga.

Vincent later said she started modelling at the age of 12 and has never participated in a pageant in Zambia.

She said she has modelled in Italy.

And Njengo Samende, who won the scholarship to Russia, said the award was God's blessings because she hailed from a poor family with her father struggling to take her to school on his meagre salary.

"I completed Grade 12 in 2008, (and) later on went to Mongu Trades (Training Institute) and later at Mulungushi University, where I'm studying public administration," Samende said.

While this was going on, a cultural evening was taking place a few metres away at the Maramba Cultural Centre.

And on Tuesday at the Capital Theatre, Mr Tourism bodybuilding contest was held and attracted participants from Lusaka.

The contest was won by Mr Kabwata Sylvester Mwila, while Nduba Shanabwato, who is the current Mr Matero, came second and Moses Mwape took the third place.

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