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UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ATTENTION: ALL EDITORS / REPORTERS

MEDIA STATEMENT

03 MARCH 2026 – TUESDAY

UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF FASHION EXCELLENCE AND LOCAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT.

Umzimvubu Local Municipality is proud to announce the hosting of its 10th Annual Municipal Fashion Show, marking a decade of empowering local designers and models while strengthening the creative industry within the Umzimvubu community.

Over the past ten years, the Umzimvubu Fashion Show has grown into a flagship programme that provides a credible platform for local designers to showcase their work through local models. This initiative forms part of the municipality's broader efforts to promote and develop local talent, stimulate the creative economy, and create sustainable opportunities for young people.

A key pillar of the programme's success is the collaborative partnership with Walter Sisulu University (WSU), which provides professional training and development support to participating designers. Through this partnership, local creatives are equipped with industry-relevant skills, technical expertise, and mentorship that enhance the quality and competitiveness of their designs. This collaboration ensures that designers are not only showcasing their talent but are also receiving structured development to thrive beyond the runway.

The impact of this platform is already evident. One of the designers, Lulama Maka who previously showcased at the Umzimvubu Fashion Show went on to feature at the prestigious David Tlale Show a remarkable achievement that demonstrates the calibre of talent within the Umzimvubu jurisdiction. This milestone continues to inspire emerging designers and affirms that with the right support and exposure, local talent can compete on national stages. Mfekezo Cobokana supplies school uniform to local schools, she started operating alone but now has employed close to 20 people.

"The Umzimvubu Fashion Show is more than a celebration of style, it is a celebration of opportunity, creativity, and the power of local talent. For ten years, we have witnessed young designers transform their passion into purpose. Through our partnership with Walter Sisulu University, we are not only showcasing talent but actively investing in skills development and economic empowerment. The success of our designers on national platforms proves that excellence exists in Umzimvubu", expressed Mayor, Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu.



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LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The Municipal Manager has echoed the same sentiments that "this programme reflects the municipality's administration commitment to sustainable development, youth empowerment and local economic development. By creating structured platforms and strategic partnerships, we are building pathways for local creatives to participate meaningfully in the economy. The growth and achievements of our designers demonstrate that when municipalities invest intentionally in talent development, communities prosper", said Mr Tobela Nota, the Municipal Manager.

Expanding further to some of the successes recorded through this Show, a young fashion designer, Noloyiso Lubelwana, from Mhlozini village in EmaXesibeni, ward 9. She is the founder and owner of *Scriptures Brand*.

She started small and later became part of the Designer Mentorship Programme. Through her dedication and talent, she has showcased her work on prestigious platforms such as the Durban July, Isingqisethu Music Festival, Sondela Fashion Show, National Arts Festival (Grahamstown Arts Festival), Berlin November, and *Made in Africa*, which aired on BET, where she achieved second place in 2017. She has dressed several prominent South African celebrities, including Amanda Black, Linda Mtoba, Zikhona Sodlaka, Brenda Ngxoli, Lunathi Mampofu, and Asanda Sizani. Her brand has grown significantly and now serves international clients in countries such as Canada, the United States of America, Nigeria, Algeria, Zambia, and across Europe. She also manufactures garments for retail stores in Sandton and Menlyn that stock designs from leading South African designers such as David Tlale and Gert-Johan Coetzee. In addition, she has opened her own clothing store in Mthatha at Savoy, further expanding her footprint in the fashion industry.

Umzimvubu Local Municipality remains committed to creating platforms that promote innovation, stimulate economic participation, and position the community as a hub of creativity and excellence.

Members of the media, are invited to cover and join the Umzimvubu Local Municipality in celebrating a decade of fashion, empowerment, and opportunity, under the following details:

Date : 13 March 2026

Venue : KwaBhaca Town Hall

Time : 18:00

For media enquiries kindly contact: Mr Tobela Nota, the Municipal Manager:
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For media interview arrangements: Ms Khoboso Lebenya, Manager Communication & Public Relations: Lebenya.Khoboso@umzimvubu.gov.za 063 509 7426

