



## UMZIMVUBU

— LOCAL MUNICIPALITY —

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**ATTENTION: ALL EDITORS / REPORTERS**

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2026 – TUESDAY**

### **MORE THAN 95 HIKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ANNUAL NTSIZWA HIKING TRAIL AND 35 LOCAL CRAFTERS AS PART OF THE TOURISM AND HERITAGE MONTH**

Preparations for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ntsizwa Hiking Trail 2026 are underway, with more than 95 hiking enthusiasts, hiking teams from across the Alfred Nzo District and neighbouring municipalities already confirmed as of 21 September 2026. Beyond promoting adventure and outdoor recreation, the event will create opportunities for participants to experience the scenic landscapes, cultural heritage and rural hospitality in the Umzimvubu area while supporting local tourism enterprises.

**Observed under the theme: “Celebrating Our Living Heritage: Strengthening the Ties That Bind Us**, two identified local tourism cooperatives, Ntombi-yexesibe Cooperative in Lugelweni and Fikiswa Ndilele Cooperative at Lusuthu Village as key partners, will play a central role in the event. In an effort to promote community-based tourism, overnight hikers will be accommodated in local homestays in Lusuthu Village on Friday, 25 September 2026, creating a direct economic benefit for participating residents.

The hiking experience will conclude at the Lugelweni Ntsizwa Hiking Trail site on 26 September 2026, where participants will enjoy entertainment, a community braai and a tourism-focused flea market showcasing locally produced and crafted products, tourism information and other offerings, mainly under the following categories namely, designers, farmers, woodwork, painting and drawings.

Members of the Media, the community of Umzimvubu at large, hiking enthusiasts and tourism stakeholders are invited to be part of this historic inaugural event and experience the beauty, heritage and hospitality of Umzimvubu.

This inaugural initiative will include the following planned activities:

**Friday, 25 September 2026**, Hikers will sleep over at Lusuthu Village to experience the rural homestays life.

**Saturday, 26 September 2026**, commencing at 07h00, with participants embarking on a 6.3 KM guided hiking route from Lusuthu Village to the Lugelweni Ntsizwa Hiking Trail site.

**Flea Market Setup:** to allow local crafters to showcase their tourism products and crafts.

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