



UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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

MEDIA STATEMENT

11 SEPTEMBER 2026 – FRIDAY

UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LAUNCHES THE FIRST ANNUAL NTSIZWA HIKING TRAIL AS PART OF THE TOURISM AND HERITAGE MONTH

As part of observing the Tourism and Heritage Month, Umzimvubu Local Municipality will officially launch the 1st Annual Ntsizwa Hiking Trail 2026, a flagship community-based tourism and outdoor recreation event aimed at showcasing the area's natural beauty, cultural heritage and tourism potential.

The inaugural hike is expected to bring together local hiking enthusiasts, hiking teams from across the Alfred Nzo District and neighbouring municipalities. 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, 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.

“The initiative forms part of the Municipality's broader efforts to promote rural, adventure and heritage tourism by packaging our unique natural and cultural assets into sustainable tourism experiences. The Ntsizwa Mountain and its surrounding landscape offer scenic mountain views, diverse natural vegetation and a rich historical association with Chief Madzikane, making the area an important asset for both tourism and heritage preservation”, said, the Mayor, Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu.

Through initiatives such as the Ntsizwa Hiking Trail, Umzimvubu Local Municipality continues to create platforms that promote community participation, support local enterprises and



67 Church Street, EmaXesibeni, 4735
Tel: +27 (0)39 254 6000
Fax: +27 (0) 39 255 0167
Web : www.umzimvubu.gov.za



Dabula Street, Sophia, KwaBhaca
P/ Bag 9020, KwaBhaca, 5090
Tel: +27 (0)39 255 8500
Fax: +27 (0) 39 255 0167

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position the Municipality as an attractive destination for nature, adventure, cultural and heritage tourism.

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.

-Ends.

For media enquiries kindly contact: Mrs Nokhanyo Zembe, Senior Manager: Special Programmes and Communication: Zembe.Nokhanyo@Umzimvubu.gov.za / 072 091 3957.

For media interview arrangements: Ms Khoboso Lebenya, Manager Communication & Public Relations: Lebenya.Khoboso@umzimvubu.gov.za 063 509 7426

