



19th January 2026

To whom it May concern

Zikulise Community Upliftment Project

As current Deputy President of the Zululand Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Past President and a long-standing member of the Chambers Exco. I have had a close relationship with Zikulise, witnessing their many exceptional achievements over the past twenty-two years and recently, under the leadership of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Phiwo Thango, following the retirement of Julie Jonson.

I am aware of the many community projects they have successfully undertaken to encourage the establishment of sustainable small business ventures over the years which ranged from baking and sewing, to beadwork and hair braiding.

The community upliftment and support they offer has enabled many disadvantaged persons to learn skills that enable them to gain the confidence to start and operate their own small business ventures and become self-sustainable.

Zikulise has through numerous Community Projects, in the greater area of King Cetshwayo District Municipality, provided many women, youth and people living with disabilities with the confidence and skills, that has uplifted them and made a positive impact on their lives and their families.

Business Management training is provided to ensure that they are able to be successful in the market place.

It is my pleasure to recommend Zikulise as one of the most reliable institutions, adding value to the community they serve and we believe they are most worthy of any financial assistance that is made available to them.

If any future information or clarity is required it will be a pleasure to assist.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Patterson
Executive Manager
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