



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 5, 2014

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## THE FIRST SOUTHERN AFRICAN FASHION SHOW - USA WAS HELD IN D.C.

Diaspora Southern Africans gathered for a memorable Southern African Fashion event.

Silver Spring, MD September 5, 2014

This weekend Southern African Community USA (SACU) hosted the first Southern African Fashion Show – USA on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center in Silver Spring, MD. The event attracted a little over 200 Southern Africans and friends of Southern Africa. The show took place as a part of SACU’s annual Southern African Reunion Weekend, an annual event that celebrates Southern African culture in the D.C. metro area. It was a perfect complement to other events that SACU hosted during the reunion weekend which included a Southern African themed picnic, party, and networking breakfast.

The Fashion Show was the first event during the Reunion Weekend. The evening kicked off with a cocktail hour where attendants were given the opportunity to purchase fashion items being sold by 14 fashion vendors and designers from the region as well as to mingle. They were also able to taste some Southern African cuisine including Samosas and Meat pies from Zimbabwe and Chakalaka from Botswana.

The fashion show was hosted by local celebrities, Gil Ingles from Angola and Sylvia Robertson from Zambia who kept the crowd entertained throughout the night with an interactive style which included audience participation. The audience included over 200 local celebrities, fashion industry experts and members of the diplomatic corps from Southern Africa. They came to support the new venture and to cheer on the designers, models and entertainers.

The designers who showcased their designs included designer’s from the continent such as South Africa’s Sister Bucks and Namibia’s HemLine fashion brands. It also included well know Diaspora designers such as Londiwe from South Africa, SIFA Love from Democratic Republic of Congo, Ma Winny from Tanzania, Bari Creations from Tanzania, Nashona from Tanzania and Marlene Couture from South Africa. Southern African Jewelry designers included Chic Frills from Zimbabwe as well as LeSoulstice and SA Bazaar from South Africa. Make-up was provided compliments of Prisca Beauty Studio.

Models came from across the region and included Miss Zambia USA, Anita Ismail and Miss Namibia USA, Tuakondja Vei. In between the fashion show lines, the audience was entertained by a flag parade and dance performances by Lyta Boys and Yve La Belle. A special mother-daughter dance was performed by Zambian host Robertson and her daughter Inga Kim which had the audiences cheering. Musical guest Prince T from Zambia got the audience clapping along to his music. South Africa’s Luluma read an inspiring poem to the audience. Overall, audiences enjoyed the fashion show and many were excited to see Southern Africa and their own countries represented on the catwalk. The show was coordinated by co-sponsor, “Cheza! Dance!” and Inga Kim. SACU Founder and Executive Director, Rachel Nkhwetse (Namibia) had this to say about the Fashion Show:

“The Fashion Show was a resounding success. We had talented designers from Southern Africa and beautiful models from Africa and the USA.”

The Southern African Fashion USA is organized by Southern African Community USA as part of its Southern African Reunion Weekend. SACU is a non-profit organization representing Africans from the countries of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The weekend was successfully met SACU’s goals of uniting Southern Africans and friends of Southern Africa and increasing the visibility of Southern Africans in the area which are a part of SACU’s mission. SACU Co-Founder and Director Sitinga Kachipande (Malawi) had this to say about the weekend:

“The Fashion industry in Southern Africa is growing and we hope sponsoring such events will help us in the Diaspora remain connected to the fashion trends in our region and to be proud of our heritage. We are overjoyed that we are able to provide a platform where Southern African designers are able to showcase their talent because we want to support Southern African communities.”

For more information about The Southern African Fashion Show USA and SACU, visit: [www.southernafricancommunity.org](http://www.southernafricancommunity.org) or email: [info@southernafricancommunity.org](mailto:info@southernafricancommunity.org).

Complete photos for the fashion show and all the weekend events can be found at: <http://southernafricancommunity.org/sacu-gallery/>

### Southern African Fashion Show - USA:

