

# **A BEAUTIFUL KASMEL COSTUME CONCEPT BOARD TITLED \_“FASHION THAT TELLS A STORY”\_ – FOCUSED ON \*THE BASANJE CLAN\* OF MONZE DISTRICT, SOUTHERN ZAMBIA.**

## **KASMEL**

Fashion That Tells a Story!

## **COSTUME DESIGNING CONCEPT**

### **THE BASANJE CLAN**

These are the Lundwe-speaking clans under Senior Chief Hamusonde in Monze District, Southern Zambia.

- The Basanje Clan are custodians of the royal shrines around the Lwanza River.
- Their identity is tied to cattle and hunting, and the buffalo and cattle are the main symbols of the clan, representing the people as cattle herders and hunters.

### **COSTUME CONCEPT DESIGN**

His Royal Highness Senior Chief Hamusonde's costume was crafted from black fabric and cowhide. The design draws on the buffalo and cattle – the main symbols of the Basanje Clan – representing the people's identity as cattle herders and hunters in Monze, Southern Zambia.

In the picture, His Royal Highness Senior Chief Hamusonde is seated with his two guards standing beside him, all wearing costumes made from natural barkcloth.

**Barkcloth** is an ancient material made from the bark of a tree. It can refer either to the traditional non-woven fabric used across Africa, or to a heavily textured woven cotton textile popular in mid-century home décor. In cultural contexts, it is used worldwide during ceremonies, weddings, festivals, funerals, and other occasions to symbolize heritage and identity.

### **GUARD COSTUME**

- **HEADGEAR:** Traditional hat with cowhide accents
- **BEADS:** Symbol of protection, strength and unity
- **BARKCLOTH:** Wrap and apron made from natural barkcloth
- **SPEAR:** Weapon of protection and symbol of warrior spirit

#### **CHIEF'S COSTUME DETAILS:**

- **HEADDRESS:** Cowhide with beaded detailing
- **NECKLACE:** Multi-strand beads symbolizing leadership and ancestry
- **CAPE:** Flowing black fabric for dignity and authority
- **STAFF:** Symbol of leadership and connection to ancestors
- **COWHIDE PANEL:** Represents cattle – the essence of Basanje identity

#### **MATERIALS & TEXTURES:**

- **BLACK FABRIC:** Authority, power and solemnity
- **COWHIDE:** Represents cattle, wealth and identity
- **BARKCLOTH:** Natural, earthy and symbolic of heritage
- **BEADS:** Connection to ancestors and unity

#### **SYMBOL LEGEND:**

- **BUFFALO:** Strength | Protection | Power
- **CATTLE:** Wealth | Sustenance | Identity
- **HUNTING:** Courage | Skill | Survival
- **LWANZA RIVER:** Life | Ancestry | Spirituality

> **“WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE CATTLE, THE HUNTERS, THE KEEPERS OF THE SHRINES.”**

> **-BASANJE CLAN**