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Uganda: Kampala Fashion Week Lands With a Bang

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By Samson Baranga

The first edition of the Kampala Fashion Week took place last week with the grand finale on Saturday night at Kololo ceremonial grounds.

To say that designers pulled all stops at the event, a brainchild of Gloria Wavamunno, would be an understatement. The nine fashion designers plus the jewellery and shoes that went with their creations, made every effort to create a lasting first impression.

The event organization was impeccable thanks to [LDJ Productions](#) from New York, and this could go down in history as one of the fashion shows attended by true fashion lovers; not just wannabes. The runway lights came on around 8:30pm and there could not have been a better way to open the show than having the winner of Africa's Next Top Model, Aamito Stacie, showcasing a high slit and plunging V neckline dress by Kwesh (Juliana Nasasira).

From then till 10pm, model after model hit the runway walking unique designs as the guests applauded. The runway was graced by jumpsuits, florals, mind-blowing men's wear, one-shoulder dresses, among others, made from leather, bark cloth, beads, lace and African fabric.

Ras Kasozi of Kas Wear worked with military-inspired fabrics and black lace for his collection. Fringed and pointed-shoulder finishing stood out in his collection. Sylvia Owori showcased her Safari Collection before first daughter Natasha Kainembabazi Karugire showcased her comeback collection under J&Kainembabazi.

She chose chiffon and silk in vibrant colours for her collection, with some beading to finish some dresses in the neck area. A matching yellow hat complemented one of her yellow dresses with simple animal prints. After a 15-minute break, Gloria Wavamunno's collection that bordered more on the abstract graced the catwalk.

What stood out was the draping accompanying some of the designs and the use of nude colour pastels. The beautiful handmade jewellery, sandals and bags by Zanaa complemented the designs. UK-based Jose Hendo brought the end to a fantastic night with close to 30 unique creations.

Her touch on the ready-to-wear designs made out of fabric left a lasting impression. Martha Jabo, Catherine & Sons and Eguana also showcased. Fashion lovers are definitely looking forward to next year's edition.

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