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ZIMBABWEAN LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL ATTRACTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

VICTORIA FALLS, 5 NOVEMBER 2018 – A brand new luxury boutique hotel will open its doors in Victoria Falls to the discerning international traveller in 2019. Mbanoro Manor Hotel will bring a unique bespoke experience to global, high-end tourists visiting Victoria Falls. The 19 all-suite luxury boutique hotel is situated within close proximity of the wondrous Falls and will feature an untampered nature experience. The foreseen rate will be from US\$800 per person per night sharing, for full board (including accommodation, meals, beverage and transfers).

Mati Nyazema, the driving force behind Mbanoro Manor Hotel, says the hotel will meet the needs of high-end clients visiting Southern and East Africa. “South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania have attracted high-end clients to their top hotels and exclusive game lodges. Zimbabwe in particular is poised to take its natural share of this high-end market and Mbanoro Manor Hotel is the ideal product for a renewed travel experience, and attract foreign investment in Zimbabwe.”

“We have seen some constructive moves made by Africa’s travel and tourism industry this year. One is the creation of the African Tourism Board to encourage greater industry collaboration to boost the number of international tourists visiting Africa,” says Nyazema. “I think we all see that there is real potential to grow the number of visitors to Africa from the reported 62 million in 2017. After all, Africa is home to some of the world’s most spectacular natural wonders.”

Recent political and economic developments have renewed interest in Zimbabwe as a tourist destination. The first half of 2018 reported 21% growth in the local tourism sector in Zimbabwe. A number of hotels in Victoria Falls reported record occupancies in August 2018, contributed largely by the newly built Victoria Falls International Airport and more frequent flights being added by local and international airlines.

“The renewed interest and optimism in Zimbabwe offer a great opportunity for investors seeking to leverage on the uncultivated luxury-tourism market within Victoria Falls. Reports have indicated that the global luxury hotels market continues to expand, characterised by high-end experiences. People are choosing to spend their money on experiences that create memories. At Mbanoro, we have designed our product and guest experiences to embrace the latest trends, such as responsible tourism, perceptive dining, and a simple focus on rest and a pronounced sleep experience,” says Nyazema.

Visitors to the majestic Victoria Falls boost the local economy and create space for new tourism products to drive more revenue into the area. Dinners at the Livingstone statue, extended night-time viewing of the wondrous Victoria Falls, night game drives in the Zambezi National Park and a new picnic site on the Zambezi River, are some experiences added to the calibre of local experiences already on offer.



“Attracting foreign investment to the area can provide much needed financial support to stimulate the local travel and tourism sector, and drive job creation.” Nyazema, whose doctorate research covered tourism as a social enabler, is a strong believer that travel and tourism have the potential to be used as a mechanism for social good and can play a constructive part in creating sustainable business opportunities in local communities. “Travel and tourism empowers communities, it restores dignity, brings hope and enables people to build a sustainable business.”

A strong supporter of conserving the natural environment in Africa, Nyazema says the construction of MbanO Manor Hotel supports conservation efforts in the area. “A big part of the design brief was to design an environmentally friendly luxury hotel, that respects its natural surroundings,” says Nyazema. “The location of MbanO Manor Hotel is significant in that we are situated between the Zambezi National Park and the Victoria Falls, in the middle of an ancient, natural teak forest,” says Nyazema. “Being conscious in our conservation efforts will allow a safe space for both nature and wildlife to thrive, and in turn secure visits from tourists craving Africa’s natural wonders for years to come.”

MbanO Manor Hotel will open its doors in 2019 and will be the only luxury boutique hotel of its size within such close proximity of the Victoria Falls.

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NOTES TO THE EDITORS

**Issued on behalf of MbanO Manor Hotel
by Willem S Eksteen, Chief Executive of Stone**

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Alternatively visit www.mbanomanorhotel.com for more information and an update on the construction of the hotel.

MORE ABOUT THE LUXURY DESIGN AND FACILITIES OF THE NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL

- The MbanO Manor Hotel is a small, bespoke, upmarket deluxe hotel development in Victoria Falls catering for the top end of the market. The tranquil suite-only hotel is nestled in an ancient teak tree forest and will offer a world-class experience to the regional and international high-net-worth luxury travellers. The distinct mood and tone defining the hotel is luxury, timeless, tranquil living and rejuvenation, surrounded by nature at its best – with the majestic 180-million-year-old geological wonder of the mighty Victoria Falls.
- The design is classic chic, defined by refined countryside architecture, abundant spaces and generous verandas from where to enjoy the rich nature of the setting. The interior boasts old-

world comfort combined with modern amenities, supported by touches of nature and stone. Ancient teak trees dominate the large garden setting, with stone paths linking public areas and the luxury suites.

- A cluster of large teak trees weaves through the main building – reception, lounge and restaurant areas. The open-plan and spacious reception area welcomes guests for check-in. A curio shop provides an opportunity to shop for bespoke local artefacts. The restaurant with its bespoke offering provides formal and informal quality dining. The veranda style of the restaurant boasts wide outdoor space nestled under large feature teak trees. The swimming pool in secluded setting offers an opportunity to cool down in the year-round clement weather.
- Each spacious Standard Suite features high rafters, open ceilings and large windows allowing natural light to flow in and providing a cool interior. The suites comprise a relaxing lounge area, a spacious bedroom, modern best-in-class bathroom, as well as a dressing room. A generous veranda offers guests the opportunity to relax outdoors while enjoying the beauty of the lush site and sounds of nature. The suites are equipped with modern essentials, such as air conditioning, TV and Wi-Fi connectivity.
- The masterpiece Presidential Villa is located in a private corner of the estate, and boasts its own gardens, plunge pool and individual access. A king-size bedroom is complemented by a separate lounge, a boardroom area with separate access, and a double-volume bathroom area featuring fine finishing and luxury couple amenities. A generous veranda borders three sides of the villa and a discreet plunge pool allows guests to cool down in privacy.

FACTS ABOUT THE VICTORIA FALLS

- Victoria Falls is situated midway on the Zambezi river's 2700 km journey towards the Indian Ocean. Originating close to the border of Zambia, Angola and the Congo, the Zambezi river is the fourth longest river in Africa, boasts with unchartered river areas and pristine wildlife. The Zambezi river enters Zimbabwe as it plummets into a narrow gorge, located on the border of the two countries, Zimbabwe and Zambia.
- Considered the largest waterfall in the world, Victoria Falls, also known as "Mosi-oa-Tunya" (the smoke that thunders)
- In recent years, access to the Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side of the border has been limited. This means today the area is less populated by hotels and more animals are seen.
- The Victoria Falls has 5 "falls" of which 4 are located in Zimbabwe and 1 is located in Zambia.
- The Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world in terms of water capacity and stretch 1700m and 108m high.

THINGS TO DO IN VICTORIA FALLS

- Helicopter flip over the Victoria Falls
- Dinner cruise on the Zambezi River
- Game drives in the Zambezi National Park
- Bungee jump, bridge swing, or zip line from the Victoria Falls bridge

- Whitewater rafting on the Zambezi River from Victoria Falls

AIRLINES OPERATING FLIGHTS TO VICTORIA FALLS

- British Airways
- South African Airways
- Kenya Airways
- Ethiopian Airlines
- FastJet
- Air Zimbabwe
- Air Namibia
- Proflight
- Air Botswana