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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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**VICTORIA FALLS, 11 APRIL 2018 – Victoria Falls will soon boast a new luxury boutique hotel catering for the discerning international traveller to the region’s famous world heritage site. From early 2019 the new 19 all-suite Mbanoro Manor Hotel will offer a unique and nature-based travel experience for the global, high-end tourist, who seeks world-class hospitality, comfort, a privacy to commune with nature. The foreseen rate will be around \$950 per person per night sharing, for full board (including accommodation, meals, beverage and transfers).**

Mati Nyazema, a Zimbabwean-born global tourism businesswoman, and the driving force behind Mbanoro Manor Hotel explains: “The Mbanoro Manor Hotel’s vision is to cater for the top-end of the international market with an upmarket and deluxe offering in Victoria Falls, in a forest setting only four kilometres away from the world-famous landmark.”

“The high-end clients visiting Southern and East Africa are currently staying in suites at top hotels and exclusive game lodges in South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Mozambique and Tanzania. However, there is limited bespoke, quality product to complement their stay when visiting Victoria Falls. We foresee meeting their needs with the new luxury Mbanoro Manor Hotel,” says Nyazema. “We aim to cultivate and safeguard the unique, exclusive and bespoke nature of the Mbanoro Manor Hotel, to become the luxury Victoria Falls destination of choice.”

“We see a great opportunity to leverage the new-found optimism enjoyed by Zimbabwe following recent positive political and economic developments. Mbanoro Manor Hotel is ready to unleash the abundant luxury tourism opportunities on offer in the Victoria Falls and greater Zimbabwe region,” says Nyazema.

“Recent reports indicate 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.

The Mbanoro Manor Hotel boasts eighteen luxurious standard suites, and one Presidential villa nestled within the natural beauty of the surrounding teak forest.

“Nature took precedence in the design of Mbanoro hotel. Hence, buildings were carefully positioned to ensure minimal disruption of the original forest, dominated by large ancient teak trees” states Nyazema.

Zimbabwean Tourism Authority Chief Operating Officer, Givemore Chidzidzi welcomes Mbanoro Manor Hotel as a high-quality luxury addition to the Victoria Falls offering. “The new boutique hotel is situated adjacent to Zambezi National Park, at the edge of Victoria Falls village and thus offers the best of nature and luxury comfort in one setting. From the majestic Victoria Falls, to superb safari offerings in Hwange,



Mana Pools, the Eastern Highlands and the Great Zimbabwe National Monument, Zimbabwe has so much on offer for the global traveller,” explains Chidzidzi.

“At the Victoria Falls, Mbanoro Manor Hotel’s discerning guests will be able to enjoy many exciting activities on offer including sightseeing, river safaris, helicopter safaris, river rafting and the plethora of adventure activity.”

“Tourism plays a critical role in the development of our economy by luring foreign direct investment and the much-needed foreign currency which results in job creation, improvement of our social and economic life or index. We look forward to welcoming Mbanoro Manor Hotel’s guests and making their visit to our beautiful country unforgettable.”

Chidzidzi says the Zimbabwe government has embarked on the development of a national tourism sector strategy to inform, harness and champion a more centrally focused development and strategic growth path for the sector. The new tourism strategy seeks to increase tourist arrivals to seven million from the current 2,4 million and grow tourism export earnings to \$7 billion from \$1 billion.

“The objectives of the NTSS are to ensure Zimbabwe increases its share of global tourism and convert it into tangible benefits for the economy. It is encouraging to see private initiative harnessing the opportunity and supporting our national tourism initiatives by development of new quality products such as Mbanoro Manor Hotel,” says Chidzidzi.

### **More about the luxury design and facilities of the new boutique hotel**

The Mbanoro 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 trees weave 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.

A local and regional team of hotel and technical experts has worked tirelessly to bring the MbanO vision to life and deliver small yet great hotel experience. And nature is playing its part.

“At the MbanO site, as we develop the hotel, we delight in daily sightings of wildlife - mostly during evenings - as they stroll past. In under three months of construction, four of the Big Five – lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard - have already paid a visit, curious about the new neighbours,” concludes Nyazema.

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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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