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## R66m Zulu venue for UK

SAMEER NAIK

A TOWERING 9 metre bronze Shaka Zulu statue, an upmarket yet authentic South African restaurant, a nightclub, a cocktail lounge and an African Theatre: this is what South Africans in London can look forward to when the R66 million theme venue Shaka Zulu opens its doors in Camden Market.

The venue, situated in the north-west of London, will have 18m wooden murals covering the walls and ceilings, a dance floor, a water-garden with crystal leopards and a seating area for 750 people. And the developers expect the venue to be a regular haunt of the rich and famous.

Endorsed by King Goodwill Zwelithini, visitors will be able to eat South African

food, and South Africa's top wine and beers will be on sale throughout the venue.

A huge display cabinet is also being built to hold all kinds of South African goods, including Zulu artwork.

Shaka Zulu – developed by world-renowned entrepreneur and leisure empire boss Roger Payne – is also meant to promote South Africa in the run-up to the World Cup when it opens its doors in April.

Payne is currently on a visit to South Africa to meet the monarch to discuss the venue and a possible working relationship with Bayede, a KwaZulu-Natal job-creating enterprise. Paul Bannister, CEO of the International Marketing Council, said the venue would play a positive role in promoting the country as a tourism destination.