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London gets a juicy taste of Zulu culture

MERCURY REPORTER

LONDON is gearing up for a spectacular injection of African culture in the form of a R66 million themed venue, called Shaka Zulu.

Endorsed by King Goodwill Zwelithini, the venue will include an African theatre, a nightclub and fine dining.

Developed by world-renowned entrepreneur and leisure empire boss Roger Payne, it is meant to promote South Africa in the

run-up to the World Cup.

Payne is on a visit to South Africa to meet Zwelithini to discuss the venue and a possible working relationship with Bayede, a job-creating enterprise.

It produces a range of Zulu-inspired products, predominantly made by the local communities and is endorsed by Zwelithini.

The venue, situated at Camden Stables, north-west of the city centre, will include a 9m bronze statue of Shaka Zulu at the entrance, 18m wooden murals

covering the walls and ceilings, a dance floor, a water-garden with crystal leopards and a seating area for 750 people.

The cost of the interior décor of Shaka Zulu is estimated at R21m.

Currently being negotiated, the venue may see South African food and beverage suppliers on board, allowing an authentic set-up.

Zwelithini has been invited to the venue's launch in April as the guest of honour.