



# Mutwa Moves

Nicki Allan

*Kayalendaba* means 'place of enlightening talk.'

**I** have a dream of building a place – a beautiful place somewhere where the ancient cultures of my people will be preserved, for all time, if possible', says Credo Mutwa. The internationally acclaimed author and spiritual leader has relocated to the Eastern Cape. In what he terms 'the most important project of this life' Mutwa, in association with business entrepreneur Adrian Gardiner, has commenced plans for the development of a unique cultural village which is designed to bring back to life ancient African customs.

The project, called 'Kayalendaba', which means 'place of creative, enlightening talk', will be launched as a 'living museum' and has been earmarked for development on a privately owned game reserve, Shamwari, in the Eastern Cape, 75 kilometres from Port Elizabeth.

Mutwa's choice of location for a project of this magnitude has raised some speculation. The apparent incongruity of a Zulu *sanusi* in the land of the Xhosa is, it seems, questionable. The selected site too, may be to distant from the mainstream of tourist activities.

With easy eloquence Mutwa elucidates the issue. 'The project belongs here. This is the land where the first encounters between the black and white man took place. It is here where the missionaries and the Calvinists first

made their mark, and where Western civilisation began to ravage our culture.'

The Xhosa people of the Eastern Cape were the first Bantu people to be encountered by early white pioneers in their move up the coast of the Cape Colony. They are the people against whom many fierce wars were fought in the early Settler days of South Africa. True to his first name, Vusamazulu, 'awakener of the Zulu's' Credo Mutwa, is indeed a man capable of being governed by a dream such as this.

Vusamazulu Credo Mutwa is a high *sanusi* of the Zulu nation, a traditional spiritual leader and custodian of tribal history, legends and folklore. His prominent role in our society makes him uniquely qualified to spearhead the development of what he calls a 'shrine' to preserve traditional African culture.

The first phase of the village project with a required initial capital of approximately R5 million, received widespread support from the community and has been described by local authorities as 'a bold tourism move'. A launch of the project is scheduled for July, to coincide with the Grahamstown Arts Festival.

Conservationist, Dr Ian Player, founder of the World Wilderness Congress Movement, who has learnt through much practical experience the value of the wilderness to mankind, will be acting consultant on a Board of Trustees which has been formed to secure the interests of investors and the local community.

'We have to get back to our origins. We have to sit around the fire and talk to each other. Wilderness teaches us to know who we are', says Dr Player.

It is time for *Indaba, my children*.

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