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### **3rd MBOKA FESTIVAL of ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORT IN THE GAMBIA 2019 Festival Dates Announcement**

The 3rd Mboka Festival of Arts, Culture and Sport will take place throughout January from 5 - 28 January 2019. The Festival offers festival go-ers a month of festival activities of distinction and diversity that celebrates Gambian cultural heritage alongside African diasporic cultural heritage. We continue on the journey of a One World, Diaspora, Pan African experience!

Mboka will be equally exciting and stimulating as the 2017 and 2018 festivals which included guest writers Nobel nominated writer Ngugi wa Thiong'o and internationally renowned dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson. The festival embraces the 'new dawn' of The Gambia when President Adama Barrow was inaugurated as the first new president after 28 years. We intend to celebrate this historic time annually with the festival showcasing and exhibiting talent and produce from The Gambia, contributing to its creative and cultural economy.

The festival is organised by Camp Africa, Global Hands and SABLE Publications.

#### Highlights in 2019 will include

- The World premiere of the debut play by the international award winning writer, Ben Okri
- Kankurang Cultural Festival in Janjanbureh
- Manduar Cultural Festival
- Youth leadership conference and concert
- 'New Dawn' performance featuring Gambian and international artists
- NinkiNanka Gambia River Cruise
- Run4Africa

#### Highlights at the 2018 festival included

- International writers and artists headlined by internationally renowned UK reggae performance artist Linton Kwesi Johnson
- International Young Chef Award and Dinner
- Honouring Our Literary Ancestors
- Conference on critiquing development from Southern Lenses

As well as local and international talent included in the

- "Good Market" Food Fair
- Wuri (Oware) Tournament

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[www.mbokafestival.org](http://www.mbokafestival.org)

- Literary Festival
- Wrestling Match

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mbokafestivalgambia>

Twitter: @mbokafestival #mbokafest2018

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#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

- Mboka means 'One Family' in Wolof
- The Festival Founders and co-ordinators of the Mboka Festival are three award winning organisations that operate internationally through their founders. Behind each organisation are enigmatic, productive personalities of international repute who have produced groundbreaking and inspiring programmes, events and material over the past 25 years. For Camp Africa, Mr. Adama Bah, MSc in Responsible Tourism Management, For Global Hands, Dr. Momdou Sallah, (PhD, MPhil, MA, FRSA) is a Reader in Globalisation and Global Youth Work at the Social Work, Youth and Community Division, De Montfort University, UK. and for SABLE Publications, Ms. Kadija George, B.A in West African Studies, FRSA. Each organisation supports a local charity or social enterprise. More details can be found on our website.

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