

Speech by Ms. Mercy Mbogelah – Site Manager at Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara World Heritage Sites in Tanzania

Webinar: *"Youth, Entrepreneurship and Heritage Sustainability in Africa"* on 5 May 2020

AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY

5 MAY 2020

TOPIC: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AT SITE LEVEL

Am Mercy.....First of all let me use this opportunity to thank AWHF and the entire organizing team for this important African event to celebrate our God-given heritage also by choosing me to be one of the presenters on the topic of building resilience and sustainability at the site level. Thank you very much.

A key consideration at this time as we go through the risk of covid 19 in the conservation, preservation and Heritage sustainability in Kilwa ruins is to ensure that we value the dignity of our community by caring for and caring for their health as they are the number one guardian and protector of these heritage resources we have in site. By doing so we will be successful in protecting these monuments and at the same time we will be able to protect our communities who will still need them in the protection and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage resources even after 19 covid ends. And the major role we currently have in ensuring that communities remain safe in the period under review covid 19 is providing them with education to ensure they take precautionary measures against covid virus by keeping distance two metres, to wash the hands for 20 sec with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub, not to touch the eyes, nose or mouth if the hands not cleaned, to wear a masks but also we limit tour guide not to guide more than two tourists by number, means one tour guide for two tourists.

We even use the media sometimes especially one of the most popular radio stations in the southern hemisphere where it is easy for them to get this education as many of them prefer to listen to this type of radio ie the Mashujaa FM

as well as the risk of Covid 19 virus in conservation which has resulted in many tourist activities failing there other threat and risks affecting our historical especially on ancient coastal buildings that are affected by erosion due to sea waves action so we have been taking various mitigation measures so as to rescue the monuments which located along the coast and are much affected by these waves actions. That includes the construction of a wall to protect the Portuguese fort, Malindi and Makutani Palace, erection of gabion

wall at the base of Portuguese fort, and the planting of mangroves, especially in the open areas around the coast. We have done this to save and rescue these ruins that are in danger of being lost.

Further steps we are continuing to engage with various climate change stakeholders such as ICOMOC, Cyack and Climate heritage team co-ordinated by Andrew port where we have successfully conducted site assessment despite ongoing work and also I involved UNESCO where I have also requested financial support so that I can continue the work of saving these historical buildings for today and future benefits.

And lastly many thanks go to AWHF once again for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be a representative and presenter of my country and East Africa region on this important day for us in Africa to celebrate our God-given heritage. **Asante sana.**