



Celebration of the 5th African World Heritage Day (WEBINAR)
5 May 2020 (13.30-15.00)

Theme 2020: “Youth, Entrepreneurship and Heritage Sustainability in Africa”

Remarks by Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize, Chairperson of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)

SIGNIFICANCE OF AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE DAY

Protocols

Today, the world joins us in the celebration of **African World Heritage Day – 5th May**, which was proclaimed during the 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015. Africans on the Continent and the Diaspora are joined together to commemorate this important day, a significant event on the Continental Calendar. Let me remind you that the first celebration of the African World Heritage Day was organised in 2016 at the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund. That was also the first annual youth forum and experts meeting to reflect on World Heritage issues in Africa.

African World Heritage Day is intended to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the continent in its efforts to increase global awareness about African heritage and to mobilise cooperation for its safeguarding. It also

intends to highlight the progress Africa has made, while reflecting upon the common challenges that our natural and cultural properties still face.

This year's theme: “**Youth, Entrepreneurship and Heritage Sustainability in Africa**”, seeks to assist in increasing appreciation and demand for heritage and culture offering to stimulate interest and involvement from other sectors. It marks the beginning of a quest to encourage innovative ideas around the continent which may lead to the economic emancipation of its people and co-operation from different industries.

The unexpected global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has also impacted our natural and cultural heritage sites. Thus, in this difficult period, to continue the celebrations of the day, AWHF in collaboration with its partners and stakeholders have come up with innovative ways to champion African World Heritage protection and promotion. Digital platforms and means have assisted us in driving the message across.

So today 5th May, on this auspicious occasion of the 5th Celebration of African World Heritage Day, let us continue to encourage and forge a common goal of showcasing values, wealth and diversity of our heritage.

I wish a **Happy World Heritage Day** to all of you, heritage practitioners, officials and communities, and I wish you a fruitful deliberation during this webinar session.

I thank you