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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

**GUEST NAME: ANGIE MOTSHEKGA – MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION AND
PRSDENT OF THE ANCWL**

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Today, as we continue to celebrate Women's Month in South Africa, we're talking to the President of the African National Congress Women's League and Minister of Basic Education in South Africa, Angie Motshekga. She has been the Minister of Basic Education in the Republic of South Africa since 2009. She is a Member of the African National Congress National Executive Committee and has been the President of the ANC Women's League since 2007. She holds a Masters Degree and Bachelor of Educational Science from the University of Witwatersrand and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of the North and today we are at the Ministry of Basic Education in Pretoria. Welcome to the show Minister.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	No thank you very much and thanks for taking the time to come and talk to us.
DR. MALKA	Minister, the African National Congress Women's League is an important institution in South African Politics, particularly for women, and although the ANC was established in 1912, initially it didn't accept women as members and the ANC Women's League really it was formalised in 1948. Can you give us a brief history of the ANC Women's League?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	That's a very interesting one because even at the founding meeting of the ANC in 1912 there were prominent women already, even in that founding. I mean Charlotte Maxeke that we regard as the Mother of our liberation was there. She, highly educated at the time, I mean she was the first African woman to have a BSC degree. She was a writer, she established the churches of the African Episcopal, so established a church in her village, started opening schools, and it was quite sad that even women of that calibre were not recognised by the ANC, but she was part of that founding meeting. But for a strange reason, there's patriarchy, men couldn't admit them as full time members of the ANC so they found what they call the Bantu Women's League. And as early as 1913 they had already started organising themselves. In 1913 these women organised the first big resistance that men had not been able to organise. So despite the fact that they were not full time members, they were politically active, they organised - beer halls - there was a stage where in every township there were beer halls and men from work straight to the beer hall before they get home, women went to go and demolish those beer halls. In 1913 it was after the Land Act when repressive laws were just quite harsh and women organised as I said, that first big march to Dompas??.... and it emboldened men, that you know that the enemy was not formidable, it could be attacked. So and that in a way emboldened men to really be stronger, be more organised and they were able to organise throughout

	<p>the country and that's why then they organised themselves as Bantu Women's League, they worked with women in the Communist Party, they worked with women in labour and ordinary women. And even during the period before they formed the ANC Women's League, they organised they formed the ANC Women's League they took up a number of campaigns which were socio-economic campaigns, campaigns - political, and I mean, very bold I mean they were resistant, they led potato boycotts, they led strikes around shops. After the second world war when there was high inflation, again you see lots of activity by women that by the time the ANC admitted them in 1948 they recognised these were a force to reckon with and when they admitted them, I remember the President of the ANC at the time was Albert Luthuli who was saying since ANC admitted women into the ANC as full members of the ANC, the ANC has gotten even more substance, coherence and direction. So things were no longer the same and even the ANC itself when it, in 1956, wrote the Freedom Charter which became essentially the foundation of the focus for the ANC women in 1954 had already drawn a Women's Charter. So even the process towards the development of a charter the ANC learned from the Women's League.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And with the charter that's where we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary this year.</p>
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>Exactly, exactly and the ANC only did the Freedom Charter in 1956. In 1956 when these women, what we're celebrating this year, when they went to the Union Buildings, historians said that was the biggest march ever organised to resist, that was again organised by women and anecdotes we hear from men I mean people like Sisulu would tell you that men were terrified because they've never seen anything like this because it was really daring an enemy when it was at its height, it after 1948, the Nationalist Party had won, it was consolidating Apartheid, consolidating its strength and women dared it and that's why they just couldn't believe it and you can see at all times when things got very tough in the country, the women will just really open the curtain for men to be able to or the whole community to be emboldened to dare to do things. Even during the un-banning when I was growing up in politics, when the ANC was banned, we were the only structure throughout the period of the burning that every August the Apartheid system knew that it has to run for its life because of women. Every year religiously we had August day and I knew it was one day we will always look forward to on an annual basis until the un-banning. So women have always been brave and always been daring and have really as I say, I think smarter.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Obviously the activities of the League change according to the socio or economic or political framework. In terms of, and we've spoken about the marches that happened in 1956, the launch of the Charter in 1954, these are all developments which take cognizance of what is happening in the environment at that time. What are the plans or the programmes in place for the Women's League now as we forwards in our new dispensation?</p>
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>You see the ANC Women's League Constitution says our responsibility is to organise women inside and outside the ANC. That we have to organise women for the ANC but also organise with other women for the emancipation and the liberation of women.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So it's an inclusive philosophy.</p>
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>It is. So we do lots of work in the ANC and use the fact that the ANC is in power, we can leverage lots of power to push. I mean people always criticize us for pushing for quotas and we always say these quotas help us</p>

	<p>with the critical mass to be able to make the necessary noise in the ANC because the ANC itself is not necessarily a non-patriarchal organisation. So half the time you have to fight battles within the ANC. We have to champion policies, we have to do the monitoring, we have to really do all the work to insist on ANC complying to its own constitution of non-racialness and non-sexism, so all the time we keep on saying it's in your constitutional commitment, give us 30% to help you realise your commitment, give us 50% to help you realise your constitutional commitment. And even in getting the women's ministry it just didn't come from the sky we had to say, you know what, if anything nobody's, if it's not anybody's business it becomes nobody's business. The monitoring, the support to make sure that the ANC in government does the things that we have to do, we have to then get this ministry as our leg in government to do the monitoring. But even within the ANC itself we are aware that just to get the ANC itself not to renege on its own commitment, it's to organise ourselves on an ongoing basis as the ANC Women's League. So for instance the ANC is preparing for an NGC.</p>
DR. MALKA	Could you just elaborate on the acronym?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>National General Council. At mid-term after its conference it goes to a conference, a policy conference, to assess the situation, the policies and see if there are new policies to be proposed and what we want to do is that the President has called for radical transformation for socio-economic transformation. So we said let's say currently now, what are the things that we need to do or needs to happen to enable women to be part of this political transformation. So that when we go to the ANC we can be able to say this is where we are as women and this is where we think the ANC has to really start, if, because for us we are helping it to meet its obligations, it's our responsibility, it's not our responsibility alone to fight for women. So that's the work we do in the ANC. But our constitution says also its to organise women inside and outside the ANC so we work with other women organisations that's why we will fight, we will do the old things like mobilising, organising around gender based violence just to make sure that indeed we are part of your mainstream women or your gender activists who lead and be led, always, so where we can lead for instance on the whole question of gender where we lead, there are instances where there will be cases that die just in the hands of the justice system we will use our advantage as a women's league to support women that those cases have to be brought back to justice, we will support victims of violence, we will work with women's organisations in terms of the fight against poverty, on things that really affect women. So I would say the ANC will also then function as just gender activists so we are not only working in the ANC we work also outside the ANC with other women's organisations but also in our own right. It's a structure of women to deal with issues of women, empowerment and women emancipation.</p>
DR. MALKA	And having that great unity and collective vision when you need it.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>Exactly where we work with other women to, because as I say we sometimes get led by your faith based organisations like in your Gaza issues to support really women's organisations that are leading on your 'Bring Back Our Girls' campaign. We didn't lead that campaign we just joined in the campaign when it started. So we also participate in other programmes but in some instances we initiate and invite other women to join us in broad women issues.</p>
DR. MALKA	And that brings me onto my next question which is about, I believe that building female leadership capacity is important for the future of women and

	to our country and women's organisations play a critical role in that development as you've mentioned, and as President of the Women's League, how do you see female leadership in South Africa and does the League build and develop this capacity and mentor future women leaders?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	I think it does because leadership I don't think it's - maybe some people have an inherent gift, but you'll sharpen your leadership skills in the process of work if you get platforms, you get exposure and the ANC Women's League gives you that safe platform to grow from. It gives you sometimes double opportunities that as women we are able to work in the ANC gives us an exposure and opportunity to do the work but also in the Women's League you have another platform to lead and that really gives that double advantage. I always say successful women in the ANC its women who have taken advantage of leading both in the ANC and the ANC Women's League. It just gave them that confidence, it gave them that safety and if you look at people like Nkosazana who really is one of our most, I think prominent women leaders. Nkosazana since I have known her she has always been very active in women's politics but she has also been a leader in the ANC and there is something about women's politics which helps you to be grounded because some of them are just so basic that if you are a man sometimes you get into politics and platforms at a level that denies the understanding of just getting your feet on the ground. But those women who have been in the ANC Women's League they've been in shacks, they've cried with women, they really have a feel of what it feels to be on the ground but it also gives them the opportunity to have a feel of operating it so it gives it that double advantage that makes a very strong solid leader that can be able to operate at a higher level but also that can be able to know how to put her feet on the ground. And it does do that, I mean if you look at most of the women who have really been successful because sometimes you need to develop skills for fighting. It's not easy to work with even men in the ANC you have to be constant fights so you have to learn to fight and still keep friendship, being friends with the ANC without necessarily ending up like Malema where you fight until you fight yourself out. You need to be able to take up a fight but still be able to continue.
DR. MALKA	Mature diplomacy.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	Exactly and just engagement but still be able to score victories because it doesn't help to fight and lose all battles so you must get your victories but you must be able to stay in the fold.
DR. MALKA	We will be right back after this.
AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	We're celebrating Women's Month in South Africa and talking to Minister Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education in South Africa and President of the African National Congress Women's League. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk. Now picking up on our discussion...
DR. MALKA	We've made a lot of gains and progress with women, what do you think we need to do in terms of maintaining those gains so that we don't lose the ground, and I use the example in our last elections, previously we held, we were 45% women within government and we've now reduced to 41% and if you look at the Inter-Parliamentary Union in terms of rankings with women we've now dropped from 5 th position to 10th position?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	And that's the importance of organising and not letting go. I mean yesterday I was at the ANC mostly for the whole day we had to really reflect on just organisation and where we've made victories, why we were

	able to be successful, where we are getting, where we really think we are going back, what are the challenges. We also work for the Commission of Gender Equality and in the report that they gave us last week Monday was that if we don't ensure that certain things happen, we will see a reversal of all our victories. Because in the first 10 years from their analysis, because I think of the euphoria, the excitement of democracy, establishing new government, lots of things happened, there were policies there were, you know there were lots of things because I think the energy was there and after setting up policies and people going in to taking lots of responsibilities, in a way there was that energy to keep on doing more and being focused on not losing ground, in the way we lost some momentum. They say in terms of policies we've put, for instance, policies and there were laws of anti-gender based violence; we didn't put mechanisms in place to support....
DR. MALKA	So the implementation and the enabling of that.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	And we just didn't focus.... and enabling a necessary result even the victory so that law just becomes law so the violence it still continues, maybe it's even escalating, this policy it's toothless.
DR. MALKA	Yes I read, you had an article recently on it.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	Ja and I was taken aback and they were really giving us concrete examples to say there's strict laws around rape but you've not put in place mechanisms, what - how to deal with it when it occurs. There are these Thuthuzela centres where really we are supposed to help with any convictions so that women after they've been raped they're not really second victims have to go to the doctor and other centres, but we didn't monitor its roll- out throughout the country so we're happy to have 17, the state 17. We have not grown so we've not really been making progress, the stats are stagnation so those are some of the problems that we have, but the point we are also making around us getting the numbers lower, the ANC you can excuse because in terms of parliamentary representation it's perfectly a Zebra and that's why when you go to conference ANC knows it's a non-starter which sometimes even looks cruel because even if there is a very good man on top when it reached a certain state they all have to be dropped down to get your 50.
DR. MALKA	50/50
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	50/50 perfect. So the numbers go because the opposition lost lots of people so men, what they amount to is they put themselves on top so in that position you'll find that they could only bring themselves because those are party bosses. They brought themselves that's why numbers went down and what we need to do because in parliament we have what we call the Parliamentary Caucus so that again as women outside our political divides, work together to make sure that we can consolidate on our gains and that's very important to make sure that at some stages women have to pull out of our party divides and say this about us as women, it has nothing to do with anything else.
DR. MALKA	And that goes back to what you were saying about looking at the ANC Women's League in terms of the programmes going forward, so that it's not about just internally focused but it's also about externally....

<p>MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA</p>	<p>Exactly, exactly, because at some stage and details always worked, we are able to support each other outside political divides, even in parliament, even on issues that bring us together and for us it's very, because even policies and laws and practices we are able to support each us to say this has nothing to do with our party divides, this has much to do with us as women and to strengthen that multi-party caucus. Unfortunately it happens in parliament when parties have already sent their delegates, but it's very important so even themselves in their parties they can continue to organise women and strengthen their women's structures in their own parties, so that indeed just as a women's movement there is that movement and that critical mass even outside the party divides. The other setback that we've had which we only were analysing yesterday sometimes quotas can be artificial if after you've managed them you don't go back to do you have your building blocks and that's what we suffered in terms of the premierships that we were were able to say in 2009 the policy says 50/50 give us 50/50 and the ANC did that and what happened now, when we went to put in premiers, it was going to be difficult to use the same thing to say women who don't have political base and support being placed in structures and it was difficult to do that because the ANC premiers who survive in the ANC is premiers who've got political base or chairpersons. So you see the premier of Mpumalange was not contested as chairperson of his region, Free State chairperson of his region, so when they've built a political base it's easier so unless we really sort out our base we will really have flying policies and other things which are not sustainable.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>So its ground roots to support, its support for the individual not just necessarily on a party level?</p>
<p>MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA</p>	<p>Support for an individual but also to get the party to carry them. If they don't have the party's support you really are putting them against the storm. I remember when we were debating one province and we were warned to say no you can put your woman but she will never be able to hold the province together because of the contending parties in province, none will support her and that's why we had to do an analysis to say well to go back to say indeed we have the 50/50 policy we are able sometimes to really fight it off but it's unsustainable unless we can use, we can start really raising consciousness there's not even one province where there is a woman chairperson of the ANC, there's not even one province where there is a woman secretary of the ANC and those are very powerful positions because those are people who go into the main meetings when policies are done. So you really end up, you might have your 50/50 but if you don't capture those positions, then you have a problem. The President of the ANC is a man, the Secretary is a man all chairpersons are men. The only time if you have a senior, your high level party meeting, it's when you will have the Women's League so the two of us. The Youth League is going to come with a man chairperson and a man secretary so our analysis was that we have to get women to begin to present themselves not to only lead the ANC because power in the Women's League, power is in the ANC. They are prepared to go and lead in the mainstream so we have to make sure that our women do occupy those positions in the mainstream of the ANC.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>And so I think you've offered really important insight in terms of those structures and having an enabling environment for women to come through with the support, having the support of the party, the support of the people.</p>

MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA they must see that they are not imposed on people because also don't want them to feel like that these dolls that have been placed on the tables.... 21.52
DR. MALKA	They're enabled, they're empowered and they're capable but you require the structures in order to facilitate that.
DR. MALKA	We will be right back after this.
	AD BREAK
DR.MALKA	We're celebrating Women's Month in South Africa and talking to Minister Angie Motshekga. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk. Now picking up on our discussion
DR. MALKA	Turning to your responsibilities as Minister of Basic Education, education I firmly believe in as being an enabling tool for individuals and also for societies to thrive and we've seen that even basic levels of literacy and numeracy have had profound effects, particularly on the well-being of women which, whether it goes through from greater control on fertility rates, improved healthcare management, reduced child mortality and I think more importantly for most people about poverty reduction and UNESCO's remarked that an additional year of schooling equates to a 10% yield in earnings on income. Do you think that we as a county are doing enough to ensure that this type of knowledge is preached across from our "mothers" and I use "mothers" in inverted commas, to daughters particularly in underprivileged communities?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	I think it does. You know I always admire South Africans generally from every racial group that we have when I compare them to other groups or other communities in the continent. Even when I grew up my mother used to tell me your education, your certificate is your husband. It's difficult out there if you're a woman. If you don't have a certificate you are just as naked as anything so, if just get married first to education then you can see the rest. So most communities do value education, you'll find that in our, if you look at our enrolment rates you don't have a difference between girls being held at home. It's only in poor communities where I think poverty begins to bite and gender roles begin to creep in that girls get compromised. So that when a mother leaves a rural area to come and work as a domestic worker in the urban areas, the girl child is made to now take the mother's role of looking after all the other kids, it compromises her studies. Our statistics show us that girl children in the lower grades outsmart the boys. They outsmart them also because in education we know that if you start giving your kids responsibility from an early age it also is an advantage for them. So those roles that they give girls at an early age help them to even perform better than boys because they are responsible, they are focused, they are
DR. MALKA	Time management
MINISTR ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	Ja, they are quieter in classrooms, they are not playful, they grow quicker, so it helps them to really become better students in the lower grades. But in the higher grades once boys start maturing, developing and they have no other burdens they don't have to cook for anybody they don't have to pick anybody from the crèche they don't have to do anybody's washing....
DR.MALKA	Where they can focus
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	They can focus; then they do better than the girls. But what is also nice in our system when you count statistics, because girls continue being responsible, they stay longer than boys. The boys drop out at a higher rate, I mean you can see your prison population, your youth criminality. When poverty begins to bite boys, because there's just not that moral strength to stay on, they drop quicker. So we have higher registration of girls up to matric, but the performance of boys stays higher than the girls.

	<p>So they are not burdened by anything they can read, they have their boys room - outside rooms in townships they call them boys room. So boys have got their space they've got their room they've got their beds they've got their time. So and you can see where these problems creep in that it's all round patriarchy, how the roles are defined and how it impacts on them and they take unfortunately your softer subjects sometimes which, when they have to go to tertiary you find that courses choose them, they can't choose the courses they have to go into. I always say it's also being responsible, don't want to take chances, girls are very careful and cautious and brought up to be careful, they will take all things which they know are safe and when they go to tertiary, that's the analysis we did last year when we went to the NGC. Boys would have taken your maths and science and become engineers, your doctors, your actuarial scientist...</p>
DR. MALKA	So following the STEM streams ...
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	Ja, and then they get into higher paying jobs. Girls they take your soft skills like teaching and other things, these are less paying jobs.
DR. MALKA	I was talking with the Dean of Education at the University of Pretoria and she indicated that 70% of their intake is female versus 30% male.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	Exactly.
DR. MALKA	So that already shifts the demographic when you're going into the work environment of teaching.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>Exactly and what it, you can see exactly when he goes to invest what he does and from there those girls mature quicker, they get married, so they don't go for your honours, masters, PhD. Boys if they could leave school and do the degree they really have their hands free, they don't cook for anybody so they can take post graduate studies even if they are married, its she daddy's reading, you have to run around with the kids, so he does his honours, he does his masters, he does his PhD and that's where you even begin to see the differentiation coming in and the roles coming in that separate men. But even after matric, it's the girls sometimes who sacrifice themselves if there's really serious poverty girls will quickly want to go and help, go and work so they can support everybody, so they just take that responsibility automatically because they've been socialising to say – I mean my eldest sister was our mother even now when I started having my kids I used to go and dump them at her place because she was the one who had to cook for us when my mother was not home, she had to look after us and we grew up with that thing to say she takes everything when I want to makes things, she knew I am coming to dump the kids and she was already professional herself. But up to now she knows, even she takes that responsibility herself, she'll say I saw your son clumsy, bring him here I looked through your children's books, and I think girls begin to assume that responsibility and it burdens them because then they can't proceed because they take all that load on themselves and they just don't proceed.</p>
DR. MALKA	Very selfless. And in terms of the Department do you think it plays a role in promoting better gender equality?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>It's not perfect. As you say 70% of people in our sector will be women, 30% are men and because men are free, I see it in the Department, they don't have wives, - they have wives to cook for them, to pick up their kids. The performance of your male workers, because they can stay in the office until 10pm, they can come at 5, they perform as a result then they even</p>

	<p>rise which is very unfortunate. These women fairly – and sometimes I understand you don't want to set yourselves up against your children to say I am going to stay until 10 because we have to compete with this man, you really sometimes give up the race for a nobler cause of your family and they really slack back as a result, you see our senior managers in the Department, even in schools are men that 30% takes the positions, so it could be those gender roles but also I think the perceptions and patriarchy, so we have a challenge. But as a sector, it's also a sector which is in community so all the – unless your teachers are conscious around psycho-social issues they can perpetuate stereotypes that are at home that these girls are going to sweep the classrooms. I mean sometimes I have to call myself to order to say, why do I say this boy can't cook, he must cook, it's good for him but it means I have to conscientise myself and try to convince myself that its good for him to be able to cook for himself but say for instance it doesn't come naturally with me to have certain expectations for him so it has to be a conscious thing and schools can perpetuate if we don't – and that's why we have a branch that just deals with gender. If it can't conscientise both teachers and learners but also through our learning materials to make sure that we are very careful about perpetuating stereotypes where - there was one picture there are boys climbing the trees and the girls sitting underneath and just talking and also if you say girls can't climb trees and there's nothing stopping a 7 year old from climbing a tree. So as I say I wouldn't honestly say to you in terms of psychological, mentally I'm not guilty, as I say it's something that we have to consciously do to liberate our girl children, but that is being at school beating these men I think it gives them the confidence. Being in girls schools, because that's the other thing that I mean I was made aware of that girls who are in single medium schools, single sex schools do very well.</p>
DR. MALKA	And is that an option?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	It's has its own setbacks, I mean I don't - it's the choice of the parent I mean when my son went to high school I took him to a boys school even in terms of grooming and I might take my girls to girls schools. If you look at Parktown Girls, they groom them consciously and deliberately to be strong, to fight, to focus, to understand what are the challenges of being a woman in the world as women and just give them the necessary confidence, courage and I think when they go to universities when they have passed they see, they are much more mature, they see these boys as equals and not as boyfriends or men they just see them as other human beings. So I think it's a parental choice, there are advantages and disadvantages, but there is a proven point that there are academic advantages
DR. MALKA	We'll be right back after this.
DR. MALKA	We're celebrating Women's Month in South Africa and talking to Minister Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education in South Africa and President of the African National Congress Women's League. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk. Now picking up on our discussion...
DR. MALKA	Minister reflecting on a personal level going through on the landmarks that you've achieved in your career, can you highlight some of the key points?
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	I always say to people I am just one person who, I found myself going with the flow. I wouldn't say I stood up on other things it's just at a given time as a young person this thing happens around you, you feel you need to be part of it, not because of anything special, I mean, I have an advantage

	<p>that my grandmother, my mother's mother was the daughter of the first Chaplin General of the ANC. So I grew up in an environment where there were lots of books because he was a very learned man, I mean I grew up in a township, I mean where I grew up it was like Alexander in Pimville, it was a shack township, but there was a piano at home there were lots of books around us and my grandmother who really has been, because we used to stay, when my mother was a teacher when she went to, when we came back from school we had to go and stay at my grandmothers place so she'll pick us up from there, so we spent most of the time with her. She was an enlightened old woman for her time I think, she used to set up schools. She came from a privileged background at that time because her parents were very educated, very sophisticated. They had shops, they had stands. Honestly, I really had circumstances that enabled me to be – I think what saved me growing up in the township it's my mother. Extremely impossible. At some stage we used to whisper with my sister and say are you sure that this our my mother and I now understand now why she closed us in and didn't want us to be part of your partying and township and always threatened us to say if you fall pregnant don't even tell me, disappear, because you will not see the next day and I really believed her threats, that I won't see the next day. So I was this reading child, there were books, and there was this really threatening mother who threatened me with my life to say you dare, and we believed her because she really used to beat us up and we knew she meant it if she said I won't see you tomorrow. At some stage I even went to a clinic after a hard beating, so I knew when she said don't even..., let me not know because you won't see tomorrow and that helped me, I mean she really saved me in many instances because in the township schools, I remember the high school we went to every day when I came back from home I'll be telling them stories about how we were playing games around the teachers, it just took her one day to say to the teacher I'm out of here, I'm taking my kid and she took me to a catholic school....</p>
DR. MALKA	Because of it's.....
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>From the middle, just so that this is the games she wanted to, because she used to fight the teacher every day and I used to be so angry with her to say everybody's child ... no-one comes here, the only one who comes here and shouts at my teacher and just told me that we are leaving this school you are going to that school</p>
DR. MALKA	So she was very engaged and very active in your upbringing and education in particular.
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>Exactly and very as I say, just this very difficult woman. So and fortunately I went to standard 6 and got distinction and the entire class of the grade I was with, even kids who were brighter than me, failed all of them because at that time standard 6 was an external exam. When I went to high school again I started playing, then I had to be removed from one A to B then she went to the school and said I brought you an A, I'm not going to have a B in your hands, you should have told me if anything was going wrong, so find a desk she's going to sit in the A class because I brought you an A student. So in terms of my own life she really shaped it by these threats she kept over our heads for the rest of our lives and I was just terrified of her. So it saved me and forced me to read and be, because after I was in A then I had to compete with bright students so because she forced that I become an A student I was able to get a place in form 5 which helped me to go to university, helped me to get a bursary because we were not, my father was not that rich and was too proud to have</p>

	<p>fanukt pay for things so she helped in a way. Politically I think also it's just, like I mean the first high school I went to was I went to Tom Mantata he really desperate to say Kissinger is coming we are going to protest and so also growing up in a home with my grandmother anything that happened in the '60's they'll be fasting at home. We didn't even know what was happening but because she grew up in the ANC environment so all the incidents of the ANC will touch on our lives, there will be times when she goes into fasting or in the cases or whether there was difficulty or whether there's been killing she will go into a fasting and we grew up in that environment just knowing that there's something not right.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So there was a conscience about what was happening in the environment.</p>
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>Yes it was just felt, you were just, without them discussing with you, telling you, you just knew something was not right. So when you go to universities when the student's boycott you just grew up in an environment that was saying things are not right. Personally there's nothing that I could see they've achieved, so it really as I say just circumstances around me which formed me and I really wouldn't want to claim to say I had a dream, no. Circumstances around me.</p>
DR.MALKA	<p>Minister and in closing our discussion today, can you please use this platform to send a message to other women who are listening to us on the continent, in terms of aspirations or motivation, to keep them inspired to pursue their dreams and ambitions?</p>
MINISTER ANGIE MOTSHEKGA	<p>You know, age for me is very helpful because you have a hindsight in say what did I do with my life because at some stage most of the things don't matter, material things don't matter, it's a life lived that matters and if in your corner you know you've done the little you could for humanity, it's just so fulfilling that if you have an opportunity to do good don't leave that opportunity. If you have an opportunity to work with people for a good cause, don't leave it, it's an opportunity that's going to give so much meaning to your life when you are older that don't leave an opportunity to good, don't leave an opportunity to work with others 'cause you may not have it again. For me it's a privilege that I've been able to work with certain people, to have shaped their lives to have, for me that's the wealth of my life that I look back and say thanks God I had that opportunity to do good in my life, all the other things at the end of the day everybody has got a Mercedes Benz, everybody's got a house. All these material things become meaningless, it's the life that we have lived that when you look back you are able to thank God for having used it meaningfully and for me the greatest meaning is to do good, not yourself, for other people and just is so rewarding to say I could live beyond myself. So it's to say to them to they must take an opportunity to do good.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Minister thank you very much for sharing your time with us today.</p>
	<p>END OF PROGRAMME</p>