

DATE: 2014-11-06

PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: MS ZONKE DIKANA

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA (INTRODUCTION)	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 (GUEST SYNOPSIS)	Joining us in the studio is Zonke Dikana. Zonke Dikana is a singer, musician who was born in Port Elizabeth and following her love and talent for music, moved to Johannesburg. The sound of Zonke Dikana is soul, collectively classified as Afro-soul. Her musical influences include the likes of Busi Mahlangu and the late Miriam Makeba with her all-time favourite artist being Brenda Fassie. Zonke has written many hit songs for artists such as Winnie Khumalo and Tsepo Tsolo. Zonke has received a number of awards which include the following, The South African Music Award for best live DVD 2014, for Give and Take live. The SAMA Award, the South African Music Awards for best traditional album 2014 for Give and Take live. The SAMA Award for best contemporary album 2013 for Ina Ethe, the Metro Award for best female in 2013. The Afro Video Music Award for most gifted female 2013 and the Metro FM award in 2004 as well as a Channel O, best Video Award in 2005. Welcome to the show.
MS. DIKANA	Wow, what an intro. Thank you so much, Doctor. Thank you for having me.
DR. MALKA	Can you please share with us a few of the landmarks in your career?
MS. DIKANA	Wow. There has been so many, many of which I never quite felt that I deserved. I have been blessed to obviously come from a very talented family. For me, my father was, I always say, my dad was the best thing to have ever happened to me because if I didn't have a musical father then I wouldn't be the kind of musician that I am. So that's the first milestone in my life, that my dad was my dad and then secondly, the fact that I can just come from a small town and be able to write songs that resonate with a lot of people, that doesn't happen to just anyone. It's a blessing, it's not just something that you wake up and you like, okay, I can write songs that people love so much. So to me that's another blessing that I can be able to write and people say, wow, how did you know that this is how I felt. So there has been so many, Doctor, I don't even know where to begin. I feel very, very blessed.
DR. MALKA	Is there any that have left a mark on you the most?
MS DIKANA	Well, I've been in the industry for so many years, more than ten years, more than twelve years, actually. Straight out of school, came to Johannesburg to live with my dad. My father who taught me everything that I know about music, but I would say my album, Ina Ethe which is my most celebrated album, that I wrote, composed, produced myself.
DR. MALKA	So you did a full turnkey solution in production?
MS DIKANA	Yes. I do everything by myself.

DR. MALKA	It's a very rewarding experience when you created something?
MS. DIKANA	It really is, you know. I was blessed to be assigned to one company. It was one album deal and I was assigned to a company and I said I just want to be myself and they allowed me that. I said I wanted to record in Cape Town because my father spent most of his life in Cape Town and I felt closer to my dad, you know, during that time. I think that's what happened with this album, it was such a magical time that people listened to the album when it came out and they just fell in love with it and the album went on to sell, you know, hundreds of thousands of units and for the album to do that and I am the only one involved in that, to me, it scares me, when I think about it, actually. I feel like I wasn't present. So I don't fully enjoy that memory because I don't quite have that memory because it was like I wasn't even there.
DR. MALKA	You were involved in absolutely every dynamic.
MS. DIKANA	That is the funny thing about it. I don't even remember writing the songs that's the weird thing about it and I have never said this, you know, to anyone in an interview, that I don't remember any of the songs that I write, it's like it wasn't me. I think it shows that something really, really does take over and then I wake up when it's done. You know, it's like being on stage. I am on stage, something happens, something takes over and I snap back in, into life after each and every song or every couple of songs and then when I watch it back or people tell me, this is what you do on stage. So that's the beauty of music, it's magical. Ja.
DR. MALKA	I think that's a wonderful way of describing it. As you've mentioned, you come from an incredibly talented family with your dad as being a strong influencer and you were involved from music, fine art, story writing. I find that music has always been a huge inspiration to people and occasionally it's been exploited to pursue various political, as well as social agendas around the world. What influences your song writing and is there a story behind every song that you write?
MS. DIKANA	I would love to sit here and say, oh no, there are no stories, just songs, but I would be lying to you. I would be telling stories. Whether I like it or not, every time I pick up a pen or my phone to record my songs, just an idea. Every time I open my mouth. I'm talking about myself. I'm talking about something that has happened to me, my hopes and dreams, my day dreams. I'm talking about something, a story that my mom, you know had told me, at some point in my life and I would interpret that, I think that this is what my mom went through, you know, so some of the stories are my own and some are my parent's stories, you know, maybe when you're young and your mom would say, oh, this is what happened to me, for instance, the song, Nomenyange, which is a song I wrote for my mother, talks about a story that she used to tell us, every now and then as children. That she had four girls and my father's family they were like, okay, no something is wrong with this woman, you know how can she only be having girls. We need an heir, we need someone who will carry on the family name. So as a matter of fact, they saw that as something, you know in the African culture, you know, people will see that, as okay, there's some kind of witchcraft involved here. This woman has been bewitched or some crazy thing like that you know and it really didn't sit well with my mother who was a very educated woman who was trying to tell this family of uneducated people, which is my father's side of the family.
DR. MALKA	Now who exactly determines the gender of your child.

MS. DIKANA	Yes, and she was a medical technologist so that was her field, you know, that, oh, okay fine, blood cells and red blood cells. That was her field so she could at least attempt to say, no it's not me who's responsible for that it's your son, but they were not having it. So such stories, my mom wasn't quite happy with my father's family because of those things but also she wasn't telling us those stories for us to dislike them or to try and get us away from them. She just wanted us to know that sometimes, you know, a girl child is viewed as this in the world instead of this. So that's just what she was trying to tell us, you know.
DR. MALKA	But do you think by having four girls that that helped the way that you were brought up because there were no boys so you were all brought up as equals because you were the girls in the household?
MS. DIKANA	You know that's also another blessing in my life. As much as it's good to have brothers and sisters, you know, people who have brothers and sisters, you know, they great, they say, it's great, you know you have an older brother, or you have a younger brother, they still want to protect you. I didn't miss any of that, because you can't miss what you don't know. So with me I had two older sisters. The oldest one was so boyish and such a bully that she protected all of us.
DR. MALKA	That's what tends to happen, the elder looking after the youngest.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. You know, I mean she loved me to bits, you know, even when I was wrong, she would always get my oldest sister, she was the eldest and then my older sister, Lulu, she would always get it from my oldest sister, like, what have you done to the child, you know, give her this, give her the sweetie, or whatever. So my sister protected me so we never missed having a brother because, and we became such very good friends and also like coming back to your question. It really did mould me to the kind of person that I am because I didn't feel the need to have friends outside because we were all girls. We loved the same things and most importantly, we loved music, all of us, which was such an amazing thing because some, you know, when you have a big family, you know, so many kids, some could be interested, you know it's normal for kids to be interested in different things.
DR. MALKA	Did you find that it drew you closer together?
MS. DIKANA	It really did. It really did. At first it was the three of us and we were known as Viva's trio, you know, before the youngest came.
DR. MALKA	Your dad was Viva?
MS. DIKANA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Wonderful.
MS. DIKANA	Yes, oh there's Viva's trio, you know my dad would have me on his back, have my sister, Lulu strapped in front and then have my eldest sister, Busi, you know on his arm, you know and he's got a diaper bag and he's taking us to my mom wherever my mom would be or our appointments, doctor's appointments or school.
DR. MALKA	What a magical picture.
MS. DIKANA	I know, I mean I miss that so much, you know, I get a lump in my throat when I get that picture. I wish I had that actual picture to put on the wall or frame it

	and put it somewhere because that is what I remember about my father, you know and he was such a strong handsome man that I was so convinced that there was a movie somewhere made about my father because he was so heroic and he was so charming and so handsome that I thought that he was a movie star.
DR. MALKA	Well, perhaps it's there for the making.
MS. DIKANA	Yeah, who knows maybe somebody will tell my story in a movie.
AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	Now picking up on our discussion this program is all about gender equality and as such building female leadership capacity is important for the future of women and to our country. Now, as a role model to so many South Africans, how do you see female leadership in South Africa?
MS. DIKANA	I think without sounding too political, this is just my view as a human being, I still think we have a long way to go, in terms of balancing it out. We've got a lot of strong women in South Africa but at the same time, I feel like, we ourselves as women tend to undermine ourselves and always want to stay behind and say, oh no, we're not ready yet, or maybe next time. I sense that or get a feeling that or actually, I see that we tend to create boundaries for ourselves. We so used to creating those boundaries that are no longer there. That, okay that no man given opportunities and we're not. I think it's time to take now what's rightfully ours because we've been taking care of things since the beginning of time. We've given birth to men, we've given birth to great leaders, how can we not be ready to lead ourselves. That's what I find a bit strange and hence I'm saying now, that we still are locked behind those walls and sometimes we create these boundaries with our minds and I feel they no longer really there. Ja.
DR. MALKA	So it's a case of the stereotypes that have been formed and we are still maintaining and perpetuating the stereotypes.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. That's my point exactly, Doctor.
DR. MALKA	I agree we have to break out.
MS. DIKANA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	And we have to be able to influence young people to get that self- confidence and belief in themselves.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. But then again I can understand why, you know, most strong women, or those that are willing to lead can still doubt themselves because it's us women who still say to them, how dare you, don't you know our place is here and here and here. I feel it's no longer really man who would do that anymore. It's us doing it to ourselves.
DR. MALKA	I think that's a really interesting perspective and we need to remove those shadows that are limiting us.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly.
DR. MALKA	Now, along the years of your musical career, you've become an inspiration to many youngsters who have grown up on your music and as well as the lyrics that you've written for other artists. Can you please expand on your life as a musician and your decision to leave your studies of human resource management at the University of

	Bloemfontein to concentrate on your musical career?
MS. DIKANA	<p>Wow. My decision, it wasn't an easy decision you know, I didn't wake up and decide, okay, you know what school is not important, I just want to do music and we all know in South Africa, you don't need to be educated to be a musician. Those were not my thoughts at all because I come from a family, my father wasn't an educated man but he was very smart and he found that from a young age that he wanted to become a musician, and my father, my mother on the other hand, extremely educated, medical technologist. She had put herself through school. She also didn't come from a rich family but she knew the importance of education so it was a mixture of education and talent or music if I can put it like that. So my mom was not opposed to us going to school, being educated herself. At the same time she loved the arts so much that she wanted us to have the best of both worlds so I went to school to study human resources management. My sisters went on to study law at Fort Hare University. So half way through I was so unhappy really because I have always known since I was seven years old that I wanted to sing because it was all I knew around the house. Remember, I say it's all I knew around our house because my father's band, he used to come and rehearse there and my father was our hero. So no matter what it is that my mom was doing, you know, we see her getting up and putting on her lab coat and going to work, it didn't really matter to us because we're looking at this hero of a father. So whatever it is that he did, that is what we're going to do and then, ja, I continued with school and I remember one day I said to my mom, mom, I need to talk to you and she says to me what is it. And I said, I need to go to my father in Joburg, 'cause my dad was already living here and she said, ja, I had a feeling this was coming. So she said, I knew, the day would come where you want to do music or you want to go to your dad or whatever. I've sort of like being preparing for it, you know, so I mean, she agreed and she said, okay, fine I'll take you. We contacted my father and came to Johannesburg and I said, I want to do music. I want to study music further but because my father at the time was not in a position to take me to school. He said you know what, I know you want to study music further but you can sing. I know, I've heard you guys, I'm so proud of you but I think you can sing, you can start working as a singer, maybe just learn and then we'll take you to school later. But unfortunately for my dad he never really got into a position to make that possible you now and I understand and I started enjoying working, you know and recording songs and doing backings for different artists. So that is how I started.</p>
DR. MALKA	It's almost an informal internship into the industry.
MS. DIKANA	<p>Yes, yes but at the same time it wasn't easy to get in. It still was very, very tough. I found that I actually started thinking maybe I can't sing, why is it that I am not getting a record demo? Why is it that nobody wants to record an album with me or even just a song so I never got to record even one song for me to have a demo to take around, you know so everything just stopped, boom. Imagine. So it was not easy at all.</p>
DR. MALKA	And the coming, doing the backing singing, having the options but always sort of in the background with other people. What was the breakthrough for you?.
MS. DIKANA	<p>Well, I think hitting a wall where I've got these two musician parents and it's not helping me to open doors, I think was mainly because of my dad. He was so strict. My father knew that Johannesburg was not a place for a teenager. You know, there would be times where I just, can I go here, can I go there or they've</p>

	<p>called me for a session can I just go and he would be, no, no, no until people forgot that I was there or wherever I'd go my father is there and I just want to make sure and I appreciate that so much, looking back. At the time, he was this shadow. I was like, hey, this old man what is he doing, you know. But my dad, that's my dad, he's always been like that. It's like you not going to come to Johannesburg and disappear here. So until my stepmom introduced me to a guy called Leon Erasmus. Leon is the one who took me under his wing and said, okay, fine, let me manage you. Let's try and put together a band and I remember the first big gig that I did was the 7th All African Games and I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe it that people were actually standing there paying attention to me. Who am I? I could not believe that hey, there's an audience. They actually applauding me and I was like, wow, I like it so much so Leon you know, offered to manage me fulltime which I agreed because I had no other plan and then we would also do jingles. I remember we did a jingle for one of the Banks and when I heard that on TV I was, like, oh, my goodness, I have arrived. I thought everything was fine. I have arrived here, here I am. The album is coming out soon or something like that. People are going to know all about me and my voice but still it wasn't like that. So time went by, you know where there was nothing happening and then Leon calls me and says, hey, there was a German band here called Jazz Contina from Germany. They here on a cultural exchange. I'm going to go and see them perform. If you can make it come through, if you can't. Of course, I couldn't go because my stepmom has been told by my dad that, you know, don't let these kids overpower you and ask you and ask you to go here and there. He calls me the following day and says those guys are awesome. I told them about you. I took their details so I went to the studio to see him. He says, okay, those guys have sent a track for you to record. I was like, wow, this is happening fast, what's going on here, you know, so he plays the song and he says, write to this, let's record it and let's email it back and see what happens. So I wrote a song, called Africa my motherland and we recorded it and I remember everybody laughs at this story. I remember it had something like Nomenyange click song which is just something that we used to do as kids so the song started out like that and then it talks about Africa, you know, how wonderful, you know a place this is and all of that and we sent it back. They absolutely loved it. They asked, okay fine, what equipment are you using because it's distorting and he says, no that's her language. Those are called clicks.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Okay so they thought that you had added an element but it was just your sound, your voice.</p>
MS. DIKANA	<p>They thought maybe I was saying, maybe a t or a k or something but it was distorting, maybe we were using inferior equipment or something like that and he says, no, that's from a language called Xhosa. It's actually a tribe here and those are clicks. So of course, Germans blown away, oh my goodness, we've never heard of this language before and she sounds great. So what amazed them was the fact, that I could sound distorted and then here I am, I'm singing in English and I sound like I could be from anywhere in the world and then you know, they got in touch with Leon and said, we are coming to record this woman, she's amazing. We love her. Two, three months later they were in South Africa with a film crew, following me around. We were busy recording at the former Mega Music, which is now baseline and we started recording songs, songs and then the next thing I knew, a group called Culture Clan was born and I had this all white German band behind me with myself and I brought in</p>

	two rappers that also happened to be friends of mine from Eastern Cape and we were called Culture Clan.
DR. MALKA	It sounds like an incredibly eclectic mix of talent and culture.
MS DIKANA	It was so amazing. When I think of that project, I'm like, wow, wow I mean for me to get a break like that where I could start my career off in Germany and then, it haunted me the fact that nobody knew who I was at home, you know. So I spent more time in Germany, performing there. So all these things, like one big movie, that when I think of it now, I'm like, wow, what are the chances, you know, I always say, why can't we, are we from the wrong part of the world, that such amazing stories as someone who is spotted in a mall by Steven Spielberg, for instance, for a movie, why can't those things happen to us and then I'm like, are you crazy, something similar to that did happen to you, what are you complaining about, you know, so I console myself by saying that and after that, I decided, no, I wanted to come home. The decision to come back to South Africa in 2004 permanently was because of my mother and the fact that nobody knew who I was at home.
DR. MALKA	I think that is a fantastic story of your. rise and going through the various elements of your journey to success and then, almost doing a full circle landing back home.
MS. DIKANA	I had to and then it's funny, when I got signed to collaborate Jazz Me in 2005 and then I released my album in 2006, my first single was called, Ekhaya, meaning home, saying there's no place like home. So I was so happy to be back home that I had to have a song like that, you know, that talks about being back home. Luckily for me that Jazz Me offered me a chance to work with a group called Bongo Maffin. I stood in for the lead singer of Bongo Maffin and I remember thinking, oh my goodness, these people know the members of Bongo Maffin and they will see that I am not one of the members. I will be stoned. So with every show I would be so afraid talking to the band, like, guys please can you go on stage first and say to the crowd, listen, I'm sorry the original member is not here but we have a lady who is replacing her for now, you know what I mean. I wanted that but it never happened. The guys would just get on stage and have fun and forget about me and then I would always come in when it's my turn to sing and I remember thinking, goodness, I'm going to be booed, I'm so scared, you know, what's going to happen, you know, people are going to hate me, you know, they going to think, I'm trying to be someone that I'm not but it never happened like that, you know, I would get off stage and people would say, when is your album coming out.
DR. MALKA	You had receptivity for quality music.
MS. DIKANA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Now, given all of your personal experiences and the journey that we've spoken about so far, what would be your advice to girls who want to follow in your footsteps and pursue a musical career? Do you think there's a right age for it?
MS. DIKANA	I think there is a right age for it. I had matriculated and ...
DR. MALKA	It's about 17?
MS. DIKANA	Seventeen. Yes. I had matriculated and of course, I knew, that I had to get that matric certificate first and then I had every intention to finish school. That, I don't want kids or young girls to become confused about that. Okay, no, I never wanted to go. I had every intention of going to school and finishing school but

	<p>life happens. You know, I found something that I really, really loved and things fell into place, thank God for me in time and I didn't feel that like I had made a wrong decision or even when I felt like, okay, I wasn't too sure about what I was doing but I kept pushing forward so failure was not an option for me because I had forfeited my education. So you need to make sure that if you're going to, God forbid, if you're going to stop going to school, make sure that you've got all the right tools in place for you to make sure that you succeed in your career of choice and you've got people. I mean, I had strong parents who supported me, who took me by the hands.</p>
DR. MALKA	It sounds as if your dad was an absolute icon and beacon in your life.
MS. DIKANA	<p>He was. He was. When I say, he is the best thing to ever happen to me, people think, that I'm just joking, ag she's funny and I mean that, I mean that, I don't know how I got to have a father like that, seriously and a mother like that. And so you need to make sure that you've got people who will hold you by the hand and say, no, no, no, you not going to do this with this child. If this contract doesn't say this, we walking out of here so that people can see that you do have that backing because what causes a lot of women to fall into these traps in the music industry and they're still there. They still there, they still there and the fact is that people can see that you don't have anybody.</p>
DR. MALKA	They take advantage of your ignorance.
MS. DIKANA	<p>Exactly. So if you know you're not strong enough, please involve your parents, who will be able to see, because they on the outside looking in, at the same time, they'll see when you're making a mistake because you are so excited about getting the deal. And another thing that I want to say, Doctor, is that, don't get into the music industry because you want to be famous. I did music because if I don't do music, then the air that I breathe. It's like ...</p>
DR. MALKA	It's your passion, your calling.
MS. DIKANA	<p>Yes It's like the air that I breathe it's like my lungs without air. The only time I go out is when I'm on stage, when I am being honoured at an award show or when I'm doing an interview with you, Doctor, or when I'm on my show on television. That is the only time and you have to have the kind of upbringing where your parents have always told you that you're special because sometimes people feel the need to be told outside that they're special, hence they will chase lights. There's nothing wrong with wanting to see your name in lights but there is all the things that come with it, because maybe you didn't have a very strong upbringing and a strong upbringing, doesn't mean rich. I also want to underline that. We were not rich at home at all.</p>
DR. MALKA	It's about the values, having validation for yourself within your family aspiring to get your own personal self-confidence.
MS. DIKANA	<p>Exactly, so if you get into the music industry as a young woman and you think, no, I just want to be famous or I just want to be a personality then you joining the music industry for all the wrong reasons because when all of that is gone then what's left of you. Nothing.</p>
DR. MALKA	And you need that foundation to come back to.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly.
AD BREAK	

DR. MALKA	Now, continuing with our discussion I would like to ask you a question that I pose to all our guests. Every August we celebrate Women's Month in South Africa and the years women struggled, reflecting on the progress that women have achieved. In your opinion, what areas do you think we still need to build on the most to benefit women in the future?
MS. DIKANA	Wow. I think in government because that's where the decisions are made, that's where the laws are passed, that's where everything starts or doesn't start, in my humble view. So, I think in government. This brings us back to the question of whether women are ready to lead or not. So, definitely, I feel strongly about that women should take charge in government because we are already in charge of everything, we give birth. We give birth to Presidents. It's us so I don't see how it cannot be done. So I would start up there in government. That's where women need to start showing their phenomenal skills in leadership.
DR. MALKA	Well, from a South African point of view, we do exceptionally well when we look at the -arliamentary Union as a system which quantifies a number of women in Parliaments across the world and just after our last election, we now ranked in tenth position, which is fairly significant and interestingly a lot of the countries in the continent are ranked really high in comparison to the likes of the U.S.A or the U.K in the seventieth and eightieth level in the world. So I think from a capacity building platform in government we're actually doing quite well. We just need to cascade it into the rest of society.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. Are we doing well enough, though?
DR. MALKA	I think that's always the question until we get to fifty-fifty, in my opinion, the answer is no.
MS. DIKANA	You and I share the same sentiment.
DR. MALKA	We've spoken about your career, going from the beginning up to where you are now. Can you please share with us some of the milestones that you want to accomplish in your career and what we can expect from you in the near future?
MS. DIKANA	Wow. You know I have always been the kind of artist, who feels like, I would love to do this, I would love to do that and then I would go back and back and say, how dare you. You haven't even mastered your own craft. So I am my biggest critic. I wanted to start my own business which was also within music, opening up my own record label which is lead music where I can record myself, where I can manage myself and then I thought, okay, put out there, and you know just to ...
DR. MALKA	Provide mentorship.
MS. DIKANA	Yes. Mentorship, to provide mentorship but it proved to be a challenge because a lot of people still don't have internet because they were supposed to upload videos of themselves singing on You Tube and then we choose from there.
DR. MALKA	Well Internet access in South Africa, I think, at the moment is only at 20% of the population.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. So that was the problem and then as I was sitting thinking, okay, I need to have an artist, I need to give back. This would be my way of giving back and then a call comes in that does a show that will be on SABC 1, the X factor, and I have always been a fan of the show and I loved the mentorship.

DR. MALKA	That's syndicated from the U.S.A, U.K.
MS. DIKANA	Yes. Exactly and the reason why I said, yes to doing the X factor was the mentorship part because that is what I was trying to do. I loved the mentorship part of it and I said, yes. This is my chance to, okay, if we find someone then this is your way of giving back. You can tell them everything you know, you can share how you got to this point, you know, you can just be open and I said, yes and it's one of the best decisions of my life, you know, sometimes I think I'm a little too involved because I want to cry half the time, it's like what am I doing here, why did I choose to do this. I love my work there, I really, really do.
DR. MALKA	It's an outstanding platform to give back and to nurture young talent.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. I mean I don't think the African music story should end with Miriam you know, or with myself, or you know, we need more.
DR. MALKA	It's building a pipeline of talent.
MS. DIKANA	Exactly. I mean, Miriam was Miriam. Dear Miriam. When people say South Africa, they say, oh, Miriam Makeba, you know, next to Nelson Mandela, of course, but when it comes to music, Miriam is the name. So we want to create that again where, you know, if you not going to say, Oh, Zonke Dikana, South Africa, then let me create somebody that the world will call their name when, you know, when they say South African music, but the next step would be, who doesn't want world domination. I think musically, we want our music to cross borders, you know we want our music to make people cry or laugh or dance in other parts of the world, you know, but of course, I want to take it to the rest of Africa first. I think Africa is united when it comes to music, there's no borders.
DR. MALKA	It's a great thing to hear from that perspective that we're being recognized and received by our own.
MS. DIKANA	Yes. No, I mean I love what's happening musically in Africa. The borders have come down. The walls have come down. We collaborating, you can hear Mafiki Zolo in Nigeria, you can hear Zonke in Ghana, you know or Kenya, you know, we go and perform, you know, in these countries. When I go out there to perform I start to feel grateful again, that, wow, you need to show some gratitude, sissy you know, you've done quite well. So I need to remember that because as much as I want to work hard, I need to be able to say, thank you, Father. I have this tendency of saying, okay, I have this but I want that, you know, and then you forget to be grateful for all the small miracles that happen every day. So that's another thing that I'm trying to work towards to be grateful for the small things.
DR. MALKA	I think it's important to be looking ahead because that is the wheel that is the future that we're striving for.
MS. DIKANA	Yes. Without forgetting to be grateful though for the smaller things.
DR. MALKA	Absolutely. It has been such a pleasure talking to you, but we are running out of time. Lastly, can you please share a few words of inspiration, that you'd like to pass on to young girls in Africa that are listening to the show.
MS. DIKANA	Wow. A few words of inspiration. I mean, I'm a mom, I'm a daughter, I'm a sister, I'm an aunt and I am a woman, most importantly and I'm working towards knowing that, I matter, and my being a woman doesn't hinder my progress in life. It's not a curse, because the reason why I'm saying that is

	<p>because I come from that, where we were seen as four girls in my family that, oh my goodness, women children, what are we going to do with them and I think that didn't just happen in my own family. It still happens in the rest of the world. You are a blessing, we are a blessing. We have got beautiful wombs that give birth to Presidents. I am going to say this again. We give birth to greatness. Greatness comes from us. So I want to, I want to encourage young women to not give up, to value themselves, to know themselves and to know that they deserve nothing but the very best in life and that they are worthy of each and every beautiful thing or blessing that they are blessed with in life.</p>
DR. MALKA	Thank you. It's been an absolute pleasure having you on our show today.
MS. DIKONA	Thank you. Thanks so much. Thank you.
<p>END PROGRAM</p>	