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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: PATRICIA KALIATI

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	Today is the fifth show in our series of discussions from the 25 th African Union Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, where heads of state and government of the 54 member states of the African Union congregated. This year's summit was held under the theme "Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063" which is a fifty year frame work that sets Africa on the path to achieving integration, prosperity and peace. The assembly adopted a declaration on 2015 "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063" which includes commitments to improve women's contribution and benefits from formal agriculture and agri-business value chains, to enhance women's access to health, to push forward women's economic empowerment, to enhance the agenda on women peace and security, to improve women's participation in governance, to increase women and girls access to education, science and technology and mutual accountability to actions and results. Today we are joined by Malawi's Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare – Patricia Kaliati. Welcome to the show minister.
PATRICIA KALIATI	Thank you so much.
DR. MALKA	Minister could you please tell us in terms of the conference thus far, has it for filled your expectations.
PATRICIA KALIATI	Yes, it went well because we have benefited from it because we were able to share experiences and also the programmes which the member states are running and also what the ministers of gender from the different states are doing. With their help and their assistance financially from the UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, NEPAD and Spanish Fund but also with the funding from the member state budget. So we've learnt a lot and we've also shared what we are doing in Malawi as a nation.
DR. MALKA	And minister in terms of expectations post the conference, when you go home, what aspects would you be looking at from an implementation point of view.
PATRICIA KALIATI	In fact what we are looking for is just to take education as a vaccine for the prevention of HIV Aids but also economic empowerment of our women, which is going to reduce the gender based violence but also the we look into the programmes of issue of HIV Aids having tangible programmes for our women, our young women, girls and also boys because if we only focus on the girl child you find that the gender based violence won't end and this is where the HIV Aids won't meet the 90, 90, 90 target, but we would like to roll out with a programmes targeting both young women and also their daughters, girls and boys. The girls that they got to understand the issues of HIV Aids. The girls themselves, because each and every one and three girls we have that we have that they have HIV Aids and it's different with the programmes with have especially with our boys that the, the infection, the new infection in boys is only two percent. Where there infections in our girls is eight percent. So we are

	<p>looking forward to seeing that when we go back home we need to roll out with a number of programmes which we are going to reduce the infections of HIV Aids through new generation as we roll out with the programmes which we are targeting making sure that our girls they are able to know and understand how they are to protect themselves and how the information on their testing the VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing – HIV) information on the prevention and also the information on the treatment and we would like to be negotiating with the young women on safe sex and sexual intercourse but also would like to handle the, the, the adolescents, girls and boys and the young women and girls the adolescents who are born with HIV may be they didn't even know and their parents haven't even told them so since they are in the active, they are now sexually active then we need to be telling them how to handle some of these things and how to do it.</p>
DR. MALKA	Minister will that involve any legislation?
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>Remember we are Malawi government, we have passed a number of legislations in the country. We have the “Gender Based Violence of 20 of 2006” and we have the “Wills and Inheritance of 2011”, we have the “The Child Protection and excuse me “The Child Care Protection and Justice Law of 2010” and we are also having the “Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations of 2015”. All these we are targeting women and girls. They are the ones who really the victims and we would like to see that we are protecting the women and also girls and we would like to educate the women, us and also girls. We have other, other literacy programme. Those targeting those from 15 those the drop outs and we are also having the mission programme over girl children who would like to go back to school. And we have the Gender Act and the Gender Equity Act of 2013 which we would like to see that women are also positioned in the decision making in each and every programme in gender and in each and every ministry and the women in agriculture also. When we are doing agriculture we have a number of programmes which we put in place so the girl project and we are targeting the ultra-poor and that they have our programmes for the own children. The school fees for the girl child, the basic amenities for the girl child. We have a lot in Malawi.</p>
DR. MALKA	Minister those are fantastic initiatives and one of the things I wanted to ask you was specifically about the Gender Empowerment and Equality Act because, South Africa, for instance they started undertaking their act but it hasn't passed through parliament but Malawi has succeed and passed it through parliament. How effective has been the implementation of it?
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>Some of them we start already implementing and the new legislation of the 2015. We are working with the local leaders, the members of parliament, the women themselves, the children, the girl child. You know sometimes we keep legislating, some of these legislations without the girl child knowing what is it that we committed for them. And we are mobilizing all the girls that they got to understand that they are so important and we are having all these legislations for them. And we are also punishing even the parents who not sending the girls to school, their children to school and though the parents who are sending the girl children for early marriages or before the age of eighteen. Because the eighteen age which we have targeted in this legislation is a minimum. We would like to see a girl at eighteen be at school finishing her first degree, even taking her PHD's, her master's or whatever, but it is just a minimum, minimum age we would like to see girls going to marriage at twenty five, thirty and the moment you do that and they've given, been given time to, to, for education and to remain in schools. so we are working with the local leaders, the traditional</p>

	<p>leaders with the by-laws that they will also be punishing at the local level, punishing the parents, when they meet at the village set up who'll be identify or monitoring that each and every girl child is going to school within the village set up, and that also at an early development committee and we are taking those to the councils that the councils should also be implementing with the work of the councillors, the members of parliament, the TA's, the parliament chiefs that we need to be talking the same language and also moving in the same direction. We don't want to leave somebody behind that's why we have even asked the member states here that they have got to establish and and strengthen some of the programmes at gender levels especially on the inclusive finance for our agri, agri-business and agriculture value chain. That at local level where we are producing some of these we need not just to sell them as fresh as they are. So we when we empower the women, when we keep monitoring the parents, bring back the motherhood, the fatherhood in their family set up, that they've got to take care of their children. Then there are also other programmes which they are supposed to take. The programmes of agriculture, we have the cache transfer, we have the geweer, we have also the subsidised fertilizer, we have the subsidised cement and iron sheets. That's to empower people at the local level. And these are the course we've taken to this summit. And also we are trying to position the, the, the, the Minister of Gender at the, at the centre of the development agenda and that we need also to see that the Minister of Gender is, financially supported, because it's, it's a mother mother body of all ministries where children they are there, the mother the father they also are there. The women ministry that's where we want to empower the nation.</p>
DR. MALKA	The Gender Ministry covers virtually everybody in the country.
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>Because you've empowered the women we've have empowered the nation. So we would like to leave a hole where the the the the mechanising agriculture is supposed to be taken on board in the, in the department of women. The moment you do that you rolling all those to the local level where we are working with our chiefs making sure that the women are really empowered. Issues of agriculture, issues of education, issues of earth, issues of local...where we are finding markets, local government that we need also to provide markets for the women when they are producing.</p>
DR. MALKA	The gender ministry sounds incredibly busy with empowerment programmes in Malawi.
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>The moment we are going to empower women in these programmes they are going to even educate their own children. They are going to advise, because a mother is a best friend of a girl child. Where they going to narrating all those, where it will be getting information from the mother how important education is, and when we do that you find that we going to reduce the early child marriages, reduce the HIV Aids, we going to reduce the gender based violence and we going to top up a number of women in decision making and in the gender equality where a women can also do what a man is doing. So we have a lot of programmes in Malawi which we are looking forward to empower our women and also our girls. We are mobilising what we are looking for, we are mobilising the men in the, in the issues of HIV Aids. We would like to mobilise the men because if we have new infection in women, in the girl children there 8 in the girls. new infection, eight percent. And the new infection in boys is two percent. You can see now that we are leaving out people who are infecting because</p>

	<p>the girls are not infecting themselves. There is a certain grouping who are infecting the girls. We need to target and, we are mobilising and we are pleased and honoured to have our head, head of states the President of the Republic of Malawi being the champion of he for she and also the number one person and the champion the end of early child marriages. So we are really honoured that we have a number one citizen, the one who is owning the number one estate in Malawi championing issues of promoting women, issues of supporting the shes, issues of ending child marriages. So what we are remaining with is to start now implementing vigorously, flat out, talking about some, talking about these issues which we are focusing in terms of empowering women and also girl child education, health and all those.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>When you have number one, the head of state supporting a campaign like “He for She” one expects as the leading role model his actions will greatly influence public perception of women.</p>
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>And the chiefs they also vote, they’ve also voted that they going to hit the nail on the head that we don’t, this they would like to see rolling out in each and every village that we that the children are going to school, we are dealing with issues there of HIV Aids the PMCT, the Prevention of Mother to Children of HIV Aids. We are doing okay in Malawi and the chiefs also they helping us, the councillors they also helping us and the the Minister of Health. We have programmes which we are punishing mothers who are not going to the hospital for delivery. Those mothers who are not even going for the, the testing. We are, we are punishing especially those who are not going for, because when they’ve gone for the maternal clinics, they’ve got to be tested whether they are positive or not so that they should prevent giving the, HIV to the child. So those who even not going to the hospital and they’ve delivered at home and when there’s an issue or maybe which has come out and they’ve gone to the hospital they are punished. And we’ve also bought a programme where the father are supposed to escort their wives to the hospital and that’s why we are mobilising men to be supporting the women in the, the course of supporting the women they have to go for testing as well. That if a women has been tested and being found that it is positive then the father is supposed to coming forward.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>The Malawi Health Ministry is very active in monitoring peoples HIV status.</p>
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>And we are rolling out with that programme so that the infection of the new infection should not be high in the women, in the girls at eight percent because this what, these are the root cause and these are the people whom we left them behind without even uh, eh, uh, uh mobilising them that they’ve got to understand issues of HIV aids. The moment you do that what you are looking for come, before the Agenda 2063, come 2020 we need to find that, we need see some of the tangible programmes which is the fruits uh and also come 2025 we need to see that we are done with some of these HIV Aids problems without having new infections. We are looking forward to coming at zero even two percent, because we involve the men and when we involve the mother themselves then you going to come up to two percent and even to zero of the new infection and also of HIV Aids.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Minister those sounds like incredible initiatives and really important and I think those are firsts for many countries particularly the increasing of marital age to eighteen for girls. The involvement of men in women’s issues because as you say girls aren’t infecting themselves from an HIV perspective. We’ll be right back after this.</p>

AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	<p>Today we are talking to Malawi's Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare – Patricia Kaliati. From the 25th African Union Summit in Johannesburg South Africa. We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. In our previous segment Minister Kaliati remarked on using education as a vaccine in the prevention of HIV and Aids, as well as a tool for the economic empowerment of women and stressed the importance of educating not only women but men too about the issues that affect women. She elaborated on the progressive legislation Malawi has in place and positioning the ministry of gender at the centre of the development agenda. Now continuing with our discussion. We increasingly function in a globally connected society. Are you seeing that any of the work that Malawi is doing is being rolled out to your other counter parts in the gender ministries across Africa?</p>
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>The meeting of the summit because we might have different programmes and different countries but this summit is bringing us together and we share experiences, expertise and information so that we as we do that we find that we are rolling out some programmes to the members states. May be some of those which are not even there and we are now, now seeing our partners in development who are doing what in X in member states and so the moment you do that we are making assignments, we are giving assignments to member states. Ministers of women who are not even benefiting from the NEPAD, the Spanish Fund, who are not benefiting from the UNFPAU fund, the UNES, the UNDP because we keep sharing what programmes we have, different programmes, targeting the same challenges which we have as Africa. So we are benefiting, yes and you, I am sure out of this we are going to roll out and we are going to be problems of, our finances because we will be there with the number of concept papers looking forward to fund, programmes, different programmes which we've shared here in our different members states where we are coming from.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And minister in your capacity as Minister of Gender you are placed directly in situation where there is often conflict with culture, tradition, religion, and it requires you to try and find the silver lining to benefit women. What is your opinion on this on terms of how you negotiate all of those dynamics?</p>
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>That's why we are mobilising the local leaders to be working with us because the issues of culture they placed in the, custody of the chiefs. As we are working with the local leaders telling them the danger of HIV Aids, the danger of following the law - the culture. And they are able to understand, and we are changing now the mind set of our people. And we working with the NGOs as well and we keep monitoring what the NGOs are doing in each and every XY village and XY district to say that whatever the programmes we have we are working together with them. Because sometimes people they might be saying that we working there in the child, we working with the widows, we working with whatever and they are not even reaching the roots. So we might be talking at the top level here but not reaching the roots, we would like to break the roots in terms of culture, in terms of all those type of, supporting men, not even taking women on board. So we are breaking the roots yeah, because we are taking the roots themselves, the chiefs themselves, so that we need to be telling them danger of not supporting the, women, the danger of not educating a girl child, the danger of not having programmes in, in, in place to do with HIV Aids, because they cannot be chiefs if we don't have people in place, so we need to protect the people from the HIV Aids, we need to protect the people from not being educated and we need to educate them, because the moment you educate them we are done with</p>

	<p>each and every challenge. And we need to take more so the economical empowerment of women, and when we economically empower women they are able to know their challenges, they are able to know the importance of being a women. And they are going to place themselves in the position where they got to be, their voices are going to be heard. They got to be saying, we have a tendency of placing men in the position, in the good positions where they cannot even speak about issues of women, but when we place women in the position after also being looking to the issue of education, they will be now mobilising themselves to say, these are our problems and the problems they are going to be tackled by women themselves. The problem, we are going to sort out ourselves. If you are not going to place ourselves in these positions we not going, nobody is going to talk about our challenges and we not going to sort out those challenges. So this is what we are doing in, in, in our, in our country. With the support of our president and also the first lady having all those programmes of supporting women and girl child and education the boarding the girl hostels where we are accommodating girls, those who are coming from far, they are able to meet or face the challenges of being raped or being defiled or having pregnancies or early marriages because the distance is so long to going to secondary schools or commuting to secondary schools. So we do accommodated them and we've been building hostels, girl hostels so that they are supposed to be closer to schools not moving the long distance to where ever they are coming from.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Minister you raised a very important point earlier in terms of leadership, that we need to have more women in leadership and I think that building female leadership capacity is important for the future of women across the continent. As a women, who has constantly worked hard to succeed in your capacity or shall I say even twice as hard as your male counter parts, how do you see female leadership in the continent?</p>
PATRICIA KALIATI	<p>The female leadership is good but it's not an issue that because it's just a women but the passion that the women is having, because sometimes some men might be saying that some men, men are bad, but there are some men who are focusing on issues of women . What we are looking forward to those some of us women who are placed on top, we need to think and even pluck a mango and drop it down so that our fellow women should also have them. It's not an issue of just have them, have them because you are a women, and you don't even share at the end of the day the women will being saying that we not even recognising our fellow women. So we need to have that passion when you want to climb up we need to know that there are some women who are also pushing us to climb the tree. So when we are there, we need to see who are these women that they have got also to come up. So when women are placed in these high position, they are also role models over girl child. They keep saying they would like to be like Patricia, I would like to be like Dr Amaleya Malka, I would like to be like Amaleya Malka, so it's important that we need to place women in these top positions because we end up being role models, and we need to parade ourselves through the young girl they got to work hard. It doesn't mean that we didn't go through hell, we've gone through that but we are able to stand in our shoes and say we can do it. So those, it's good to place women in top position, not only at ministerial level but even at presidential level and even at international grouping that we need to place women in those so that they end up being role models and the enrolment of girls is also going raise and also the education of a girl child is also going to go high because they will be saying we have our role models and we would like to be like Nkosazana Zuma, I would like to be like all those women the president of Liberia. I would like to also be in</p>

	broadcasting media, that's why I would like to say, we would like to see women in each and every department in media, in ministries, in ministry of agriculture, ministry of health, ministry of education, ministry of gender. You know, it's not the ministry of gender should all be women only, that we need to see me, women, because they are the ministry of gender but in each and every department. So if we going to place women in these top positions, yes, we are going to achieve our goals and this is what we are looking for.
DR. MALKA	We'll take a short break!
AD BREAK	
DR. MALKA	Today we are talking to Malawi's Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare – Patricia Kaliati, from the 25 th African Union Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. In our previous segment Minister Kaliati spoke about the support provided by the President and First Lady of Malawi, as well as mobilising local leaders to work with the Gender Ministry to help women's development. We also spoke about the role of women with respect to building leadership capacity and to encourage them to enter high ranking positions and in this capacity they effectively serve as role models for other women. Now continuing with our discussion on role models. Minister you are a role model too many young women in the continent, not just in Malawi. You've proven without a doubt that it takes hard work and sacrifice but through that anything can be achieved. As this is a gender based radio programme can you please share with us some of the gender challenges you've experienced and how you've overcome them to become the person you are today?
PATRICIA KALIATI	You know sometimes we can discourage a girl child or women that they fear of being named. You now this is now a challenge where one is supposed in your own shoes and say I don't mind provided I am looking forward and move forward and achieve what I am looking for. What we are telling the young women, they've got to dream in colours, and first of all let me parade all the women to be the role models of the own children and let me also parade all women that they've got to say, yes I'm having my, my diploma, my degree then the end of education. They've got to go beyond that so that when their children, they following them, they've been following, they be saying I have my own role model, who is it, my mother. And we would like to parade all women in private sector, all women in government to parade themselves so that all young girls, the young women all the young girls that they've got to be saying we are here we went through. We even challenged men, we were even defeating them when we were in class. We are getting high marks in class, but now for us and you can make it. This is what we are looking for. There are those challenges, and let me tell them that if men are coming to them proposing them, it doesn't mean that they are beautiful but that are cheap, so they've got to know that whoever comes to them and say "You are beautiful", they are lying. You've got to beautiful up here when you've finished your education. You've got to be beautiful up here when you in top position not, not necessarily that when a man have seen you that your face that he comes and say you are beautiful, they just lying. We need to stand in our shoes and say thank you but I need to go ahead with my education. And, and we not be smiling at them, they've got to know that we can be in each and every position which these men are having.
DR. MALKA	Now in closing the discussion could you please share a few words of inspiration to our young ladies living on the continent, that there is hope, that they can do whatever it is that their heart desires.

<p>PATRICIA KALIATI</p>	<p>So our young ladies where ever you are our girls where ever you are, you can do it. What you are looking forward to is continuing your education, there are good things to come for you not today but tomorrow after you finish your education. You are going to be a bread winner of everybody, you going to be a role model of your sisters, you going to be a role model of your daughters, you going to be a role model of African children, African girls and African young women and even beyond that. What we are looking for is to continue with your education but you also need to dream in, in colours with what you want to be. We are the people who are going to break the rules, we are the people who are going to break the gender based violence. We are the people who going to break and, end the HIV aids, end the early marriages, we are the people who are going to empower our fellow women, we are the people who are going to add the budget of women to economically empower the people through the budget, the financing, the financial inclusiveness of agri-business. We are the people who are going to find markets for our, you when you continue your education. Good men they are in future, not today, after you finish you education, because when you are going to be educated as young girls, young women you going to make a rightful decision what time to get married, how many children you would like to have, what type of a man you want to, to, to be with in your life. But because being, because when you choose wrongly, a life, a marriage a spouse or husband make sure that you are putting in a cell where you not going to enjoy. You are choosing a, cuff which you are not going to enjoy. You are making yourself a prisoner to somebody, but when you are going to choose the right person then you going to enjoy in your family and you'll only choose the right person when you educated, because you'll be saying okay you going to have a decision, you going to be, to , to, to contribute in the house, what type of house you want to have. You might be, you'll be telling the husband the amount which you've received as your salary not because you fear him but because you, are entitled just to announce that I have this but you'll be free how to use your money as a wife because you've gone to school and also as somebody in that house, you are able to educate your sisters because you've, you've been educated and you are working, but when you not going to be educated you just going to marriages you won't have even a say in marriages, your husband will be ruling you which side he wants without even giving you something else. Let me ask you, my sisters, where ever you are, yes the marriages are there, created by God but remember when God created a women he didn't took a, a bone from the hand that you should just be slapped every day, but the bone went from the limb and remember we are made from already processed materials that we can even suppress pressure and we can stand in our shoes and say "Yes I can". We are not like people who can be shaken by wind but we are people who are made from processed materials and we were loved by God and lets continue loving each other, continue loving our girl children, continue loving yourself as you go to school as you continue with your education, as you continue positioning yourself in the rightful position for the nation as you continue even making yourself that, yes I can do whatever the man can do as women can also do. So wish you well and may God bless you as you think about HIV aAids, the gender based violence, the early marriages and also as you think about education of a girl child, young women and the adolescent girls.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>Minister thank you very much for joining us. We appreciate your time.</p>
<p>PATRICIA KALIATI</p>	<p>Thanks so much. God bless.</p>

DR. MALKA	You have been listening to Womanity – Women in Unity and we have been speaking to Malawi’s Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Development, Patricia Kaliati. Tune into the show next week as we continue our series of discussions at the 25 th African Union Summit, when we talk to the Tanzania’s Minister of Community Development, Gender and Children – Sophia Simba.
END OF PROGRAM	