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**PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY**

**GUEST NAME: MS NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
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 studio today is Member of Parliament Mrs Mafu who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements.
DR. MALKA	Welcome to the show.
<b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b>	<b>Thank you very much. As you have heard my name is Nocawe Mafu for those that don't know what it means, Nocawe means I was born on a Sunday so it means I am a holy baby. I am an activist, a Member of Parliament and a Member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress and I am happy to be here. Thank you.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you very much for introducing yourself and for giving us the additional background, it adds more context to the conversation. Ms Mafu you are Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements. Can you tell us a little bit about the Committee's tasks and what it aims to achieve?
<b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b>	<b>Thank you very much. First of all in parliament what happens is that each portfolio you would have a Cabinet Minister and then there would be a Chairperson which would be an overseer of the portfolio. For instance everybody knows that when you talk about Human Settlement the Minister of Human Settlement is Ms Lindiwe Sisulu and myself therefore I am the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee. In simple terms that means Ms Lindiwe Sisulu is in the Administration in the Executive and myself, I therefore am in Parliament, I represent the people. I oversee what therefore government does for the people. I oversee a Committee of twelve, where all opposition parties are represented and we discuss and see how and what the Department of Human Settlement does in terms of doing its role.</b>
DR. MALKA	And I would imagine that's where there's a lot of implementation that is discussed, because I found that it is one thing having great policies and great ideas, but if they are not implemented then it loses the validity and value of them.
<b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b>	<b>Exactly. And of course I want to put it up front that we do not implement. Ours is not to implement, but ours is to make sure that we monitor the implementation by the department so what we – some people would call us police over the department, because if there is anything that doesn't go right in the department, we then have that right given to us by the law to call the Minister and the Executive over to come and explain certain things to the Portfolio Committee so that then the people of South Africa, everybody else and ourselves, can understand what are the blockages, what are the challenges. So we have got that power to call anybody over to the Committee to explain things.</b>

DR. MALKA	And we have that accountability and good governance.
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<b>And we have that accountability. One of the things that we always want to explain to the people is that when you talk about a Portfolio Committee, one of its- there's mainly three things that it does. One is an oversight role, it overseer. Secondly, it has to do with public participation. We have to go out there and make sure that the public understands what the department is doing, what parliament is doing. But thirdly, law making. In other words, there can't be any acts of parliament that has got to do with Human Settlement that can be passed without the Portfolio Committee itself discussing and making its views and recommendations. It cannot go to parliament without us doing that.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you for describing the functions of the Portfolio Committee. Now housing is a constitutional right in South Africa. According to our constitution it says everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. This is one of the biggest tasks for the government to fulfil. Can you tell us about some of the development initiatives that are underway?
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<b>Well you will remember that during the advent of democracy in 1994, at the time our first Minister of Housing then, was comrade Joe Slovo. And one of the big things at the time was the – that was at everybody's mouth was the RDP houses; Reconstruction and Development everybody was talking about RDP houses. As you know everything as time goes on, it evolves with time.</b>
DR. MALKA	Definitely.
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<b>We have then realized that from 20 years now since democracy, government has built about 3.7 million houses for South Africans. But also what we have noticed is that there is no – we don't seem to have made a dent in terms of making sure that every South African has a house; the more we build, the more the need is there. You will also know that the department itself has evolved from being the Department of Housing to now Department of Human Settlements because then what it means is that we are looking at settling the people of South Africa, not necessarily looking at houses. Because we looked at the fact that if you are saying that you are a Department of Houses, it means yours is just to build a house.</b>
DR. MALKA	Yes and it becomes very just one-dimensional the infrastructure arm but as I realize you got a whole community to take care of.
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<b>Exactly, exactly yes. And now Human Settlement is more integrated in nature. For instance if we are going to have an area where we are developing a project for houses, it means besides just houses we have to make sure that even other departments are part of the development. There should be playgrounds there, there should be schools there, there should be economic activity there, there should be roads there and obviously this cannot be done by Human Settlement alone. It needs everybody, that's why then it became Department of Human Settlement. Now the role has become evolved not just to do houses, because I don't know if you know some years ago you would go around and see houses just standing alone there, no roads, no electrification of the houses and it became so tedious that people then would fight about getting service to those houses. How do we connect water – now with the department what we do is – once a project is finished it must be habitable, so to speak. It must be a place where people when they move into that area it is human settlement, there is everything; amenities that they need are there. That is why it became Department of Human Settlement.</b>
DR. MALKA	But I think that is a very important point that you raise because it is not only about the elements, the services that we need, but it's managing the complexities of

	<p>human communities – so having the infrastructure, having the supply of amenities, but then there is also the social dynamics that come into play and cultural aspects. And when you undertake these types of developments, how do you take account of the more sort of the softer and a social, the softer social and cultural aspects?</p>
<p><b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b></p>	<p><b>Well one of the things that we always believe in, particularly as the department is that any development for it to be a success, the people themselves must take ownership of the development and must lead the development.</b></p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>And when you say the people, the people who are going to inhabit the space?</p>
<p><b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b></p>	<p><b>The people that are going to inhabit this space or the people that are going to benefit. So what we would call beneficiaries. They should take ownership in the sense that then you don't just do things on their behalf without knowing what is their needs. You are able to do the needs that they have themselves identified as their needs. They would then say to you as you interact with the community; we don't have a school here, there is no shops here so that when you then do the specification itself, there's space that you put aside for malls. One of the people that always people complain about is that there's malls everywhere in South Africa. But that is also about the economic activity of the people themselves. Because Human Settlements is trying to make sure that people don't have to travel far to do certain things. Bring services to the people. That's why you will find in each township, in each development area there is a mall, there's a school there's everything. What we are trying to do is to try and make sure that we do not have settlements or places where people feel that for me to get a certain service, I must then take a taxi, money that I don't have or a bus and travel to town to get a certain service. The services must be where the people are. So that's what Human Settlement is all about and you would realize therefore that it's a very complex department. It therefore whilst it is Human Settlement but it also has got a task therefore of co-ordinating other departments to make sure as it builds, other departments come into play to make sure that the other services are there. So that's why most of the time, people would say if there is a protest in a certain area, Human Settlements is the one that they are protesting against, because this is the department that is about the settlement of the people. So it's very rare that you would hear of people protesting about a mall that they want a shop, they wouldn't they would be protesting about wanting houses, because for them houses is about therefore the entire settlement of them in their human need.</b></p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>And I would imagine there's a tremendous amount of integration that happens between the different departments to make sure that everything is supplied – well ideally on the right time but making sure the planning is in place, so that all this integration is possible.</p>
<p><b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b></p>	<p><b>Yes and one of the things that probably is quite interesting to note as well, is the fact that you would know that when during the previous time the apartheid time when the township development, you would see the difference between township development and so-called urban development. You could see the difference. But what we are trying to do now, is to make sure that development is in such a way that it becomes integrated, it becomes integrated in such a way that you don't walk in and see that there this is a township area, there this is the so-called previous urban areas. We are trying to make sure that we integrate the people of South Africa, they live together because for us that also means understanding each other better and integrating our cultures. Because most of the hatred that we perceive to have it is because we do not understand each other, much. Because we don't stay with each other. For us as Human Settlement Portfolio Committee and the Department, we feel that if we all stay together, you are going to know somebody more. When you stay with</b></p>

	<p>somebody, you even know the weaknesses of that particular person. But if you don't stay with that person, you see that person once a while, you are not able to actually understand this person. So for us Human Settlement is about as well, integrating society of South Africa.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>That's a very potent point that you make on diversity. Today we are talking to Mrs Mafu who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements.</p>
<p><b>AD BREAK</b></p>	
DR. MALKA	<p>You're listening to Womanity – Women in Unity on Channel Africa, the Voice of the African Renaissance on frequency 9625 kHz on the 31 meter band, also available on DSTV channel 902. Today we are talking to Mrs Mafu who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter <a href="#">@womanitytalk</a>. In our previous segment Mrs Mafu highlighted the various aspects that the Portfolio Committee fulfils in terms of its oversight role, public participation and law making capabilities and she also spoke in terms of the extensive integration and the work that the Committee as well as the Department of Human Settlements entails. Now Mrs Mafu, being a political leader in Africa especially as a woman sometimes touches on sensitive points like culture, religion, tradition. In your experience, do you think that woman leaders face different challenge to their male counterparts and are they judged differently?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p><b>Of course, yes, yes. Remember we – much as we have moved a lot in terms of democracy but we are still living in a patriarchal society, that hasn't changed. And unfortunately, patriarchal society in simple terms is about power relations and power relations is about power relations between men and women. Women had many times have had to do things twice the amount compared to men. If you are a minister and you are a woman, you would be judged first because she is a woman-minister. Before she is a minister, she is a woman. A lot of the times therefore, we have to put our energies and do things you know three times more, four times more because we have to prove our worth. We have to prove that we can do things and we are equal to the task as man. And unfortunately, this is still going to take a long time to be resolved because if you understand patriarchy – patriarchy is something that we need to understand and be able to deal with it all of us – men and women. It is not women only that must tackle the issue of patriarchy – it is everybody in the society. If we don't understand the fact that it is everybody's task and everybody's responsibility to deal with it, it's going to take a long time. I sometimes get very you know, not upset but – with the term “women struggles” you know.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And why is that?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p><b>Because from another perspective, people will look at this struggle as if it's only the women that must do these certain things. And for me, if you talk about gender inequality in the country or in the world or in the home or at work, anywhere - it must be tackled by everybody in that particular setting for it to be resolved quickly, not by women only. Of course women will experience it differently from other people, therefore the woman might be the one that handle it earlier but it needs everybody to be handled. You see where I come from, my organization I know a lot of people would say the African National Congress is an organization that at least deals with gender equality.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It does and in terms of any other political party, ANC is one hundred percent, 50/50.</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p><b>Yes but we still would want to see more of that as women within the African National Congress. We would want a situation where we do not have to fight for certain things, it must come automatically. It must not be because we have to stand up and say no now we want so many women. It must just be</b></p>

	<p>automatic. It has done very well, the African National Congress because it has become a policy issue. It is everybody knows in the ANC that if you have to elect certain people into certain structures, automatically women must be there – it is a policy issue. If you don't have 50% of women in that structure it is not legitimate, the ANC has done well. But that is not enough from where we coming from. We need to internalise the fact that it must not just be about fighting for 50%, it must just be about not just therefore seeing that you got 50% and therefore all is well.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Ja and then sitting back and waiting for things.</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p>No it must be something that at the end of the day it becomes an internalized thing that you do not even need to remind people about it. That's why for me I always smile and laugh when this debate is starting to creep slowly about a woman president, because it should not even be a debate. It should be about who then is the best person to lead the country, if that person is a woman- so be it. Why should it be a discussion about a woman president, it always amuses me because we should have moved from that days by now. Everybody is gripped by this, is ANC going to have a woman president. What is this? For me that's not an issue. If I qualify to be the president, the issue that I'm a woman shouldn't be an issue; I qualify to be the president. Why does everybody want to then say, she is a woman? Why?</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It goes on competence. One of the things that I find quite interesting is where you spoke about that women have to work twice as hard, three times as hard, four times as hard and I often wonder if that makes us better people because we have to do that?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p>Oh yes, from where I'm sitting I think actually we are. It makes us better people because I think we are always on our toes, we are always wanting to prove a point and therefore that on its own make us want to be perfectionists in things that we do. And because you know our counterparts, men they know that these things are given to them either way, whether they work hard or not they would still get this positions so for them they don't need to put an extra energy into doing things. But us as women – so yes, yes, yes, yes we are the best in what we do in everything we do, simply because of that.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And with the gender issue I wanted to ask if Parliament has any programs that prepare women MP's for challenges to gender issues?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU  23.00	<p>You know in parliament one, there is a committee - there's two committees in parliament which are looking at the issue of women empowerment but also the Portfolio Committees themselves, should have programs that are actually looking at the issue of empowering women. One of the things that needs to happen is that happens when we get into parliament is that you go through a program which would be called induction in corporate terms, but then that induction is for everybody and that induction would also try to induct even men MP's on how to relate to women MP's. And that induction is for all MP's across the political divide - whether you are coming from which party, that induction is for everybody. But political parties themselves, have also got a responsibility of then making sure that in their programs as political parties have got programs to empower women MP's but on top of that, parliament has got these committees that would then run programs on gender struggles, on women-empowerment, there is even courses that parliament would run. But let me tell you some of the things is that as time goes on, we tend to look at - you know how these women workshops, no they are wasting our time, no we have done these things, no we know these things, no we have done this before – and we tend not to prioritize the women programs. It is something that happens</p>

	<p>across the board, if you know what I am talking about, even at corporate. You get to a stage where you think now we have been doing these things, this is a waste of resources, we have done these things we have been doing these things about women, now they should be fine. And this is an ongoing struggle - it will be an ongoing struggle until we are able to sit back and say we have defeated patriarchy. If we have not defeated patriarchy, why then should be think that we are wasting resources, if we continue with these programs? I don't know if you have noticed, even in the country the issue of 1994, '93, and '95 the programs on women empowerment were all over. They were in – as we move, you might have noticed that they are not as in the highlight as they used to be. We seem to be regressing here a little bit. And that's a danger, because as we regress with these programs, we are regressing with the struggle as well of women empowerment, without realizing. Because we should maintain the momentum, we can't think that we have arrived. We have not arrived. We can't assume that when every day we say to ourselves, democracy is an ongoing struggle. Why therefore do we think that women empowerment and gender equality is a once-off and then we take a break. We should realize that it is also an ongoing struggle, that's what I have to say.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I think that's a very important point that you have to say. Today we are talking to Mrs Mafu who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements.</p>
<p><b>AD BREAK</b></p>	
DR. MALKA	<p>Today we're talking to Mrs Mafu who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter <a href="#">@womanitytalk</a>. In our previous segment we spoke extensively about the necessity of overcoming patriarchy and not to become complacent and to continue to inject elements into reviving the efforts to overcome the issues that are pertinent to women. Mrs Mafu one of the questions that I ask all my guests on the show who have made tremendous achievements in their respective fields, whether it is in the business sector, the political space, sporting arena is about the factors that have contributed to their success and some of them talk about hard work, perseverance – in your opinion what have been the key drivers to your success?</p>
<p><b>NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU</b></p>	<p><b>Of course any success for it to be - maybe let me start by saying success is what you yourself define it. Because somebody else's success, is not necessarily your success. So how then you define it and identify with your success will then determine what then made you to be successful. I have for me, I think my inner drive perseverance so to speak, is something that has always you know driven me to achieve what I wanted. But I also want to believe that some of the things that I might have achieved, I might not have achieved if I was not in the family of the African National Congress. And to put it and extend it further, therefore if I was not in the family of the African National Congress Women's League, because Women's League and the ANC has shaped my view, has shaped how I deal with issues, has shaped how I see myself succeeding, has shaped how I want to be seen in society, has shaped how I want society to remember me and I really want to believe from the bottom of my heart is that much as – because for me ANC Women's League and the ANC is like family. So when I talk about them, I talk about then how the family has shaped my world view. So much as my nuclear family which is where I come from has made me who I am in terms of being this adult, but the adult that people see out there and the adult that is doing what he is doing, I don't believe that you would have had the opportunity of interacting with me if the African National Congress had not shaped my world. And I want to take this opportunity actually to thank the society of South Africa, because I also want to believe that if the society that I</b></p>

	<p>grew up in, which at the time, therefore forced me to be a part of the family of the ANC. That society, the South African society has then made me to be this success. Of course as I have said success is what you believe it to be. Therefore the South African society itself, how and how it shaped me is actually - it must take credit for the success of myself. So as I have put it, it would be my family, it would be the ANC family, it is the South African society. Everything else comes secondary. For me those are the areas that have made me to be successful.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I think that is a wonderful perspective, particularly on the collective elements that have gone through into developing and creating who you are today. Can you share with us some of the pivotal moments in your life growing up?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p>I don't know if first of all, I was raised by a grandmother. My mom passed away at a very young age, when I was three years old. So my grandmother became my mother figure. And one of my earliest recollection of how I became conscientized I always tell people and they always laugh is that my mother was a domestic worker – my grandmother who now I will say is my mother you know interchangeable was a domestic worker. So we then went to be raised in Eastern Cape where she came from and she was in East London so I went to the then-Transkei and on holidays I would come. And on holidays she would then ask me to do chores around the - you know where she was working. And I remember when I was doing standard five, because she used to call the owner of the house “baas” and “ma'am”. So she asked me to go and – I was doing the garden and doing the dishes- I remember refusing to call Mr Kayse “baas” and she was so embarrassed and she said to me “You want me to lose my job, because this is “baas”” I said “No, nobody is supposed to be called a “baas” he is Mr Kayse and I'm going to call him Mr Kayse, I believe I am respectful enough, I am not calling him by his name, I am saying he is a mister” and my grandmother he always used to say when I was growing up “I knew you were going to be a politician from that time, I knew that you were going to be a politician” for me that is what always reminds me and I always laugh when I think about it. It came out of nowhere, at that time I was not even you know conscientized, but I just simply refused to call somebody else a baas. So I just so my grandmother and everybody else says from a very young age, this one we knew that she was going to be a politician. So yes, but and one of the things that shaped my growing up is that I always became one of the things to do things first. I am a nurse by profession and when I did my training, I did my training at the time that even the hospitals were still segregated; there were black hospitals and white hospitals. And unfortunately when I did my first year of nursing, I became one of the first students to be accepted at a hospital that never trained black people at Frere Hospital. So I was one of the first people to be accepted and I always tell people that one of my tasks I always felt that I have to do well. Because if I do not do well, it means I am closing the door for any other black person that could have been admitted in that hospital and when I finished my four year degree at Frere Hospital, I was one of their best students unfortunately and I finished my degree in cum-laude because subconsciously I said to myself, I am not here for myself. I am here for everybody else that must come in here.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And in everything that you have spoken about today, it seems as though the collective is incredibly important, it's infused into you and that life is not just about you it's about your community and the country.</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p>Because I think for me I was raised by a collective, when as I have told you I was raised by a grandmother and that grandmother died in 1979. So by the time I finished my schooling, I was being raised by the people around me not</p>

	<p>necessarily my family – the aunts, the relatives, the neighbours and everybody. I have always believed that if we can look after each other and be able to make sure that we lift each other up, we can achieve a lot. That’s where I come from and that’s where right now, one of the things that I always do is to make sure that I don’t pass somebody who needs my help and who needs my assistance because I believe that I’m here because somebody else decided to stand and help me. That’s what I do all the time.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Mrs Mafu we are unfortunately coming to the end of our discussion today, in closing the conversation can you please give us a few words of wisdom, hope or inspiration that you would like to pass on to women in Africa who are listening to us today?</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p><b>Africa is great continent and I always believe that its greatness is going to come to fruition once women in Africa are able to exercise their full potential. We will keep on talking about a big continent, with a great potential, unless and until we let the women of Africa - as we normally say let them fly, let them do what they do best Africa is going to be up there with the best. Let the women lead and let the women do what they do best and I can tell you. Because remember Africa is sort of cultural in nature, so it keeps a lot of women that are better than us, us we are able to be where we are because maybe we are more talkative – there are those in the rural areas, there are those sitting in Guinea, there are those sitting in Kenya, that might be better than us but they do not have this opportunity. If we can be able to open up those shackles and let women do what they do best, I can tell you now, Africa is going to be up there with the best.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Thank you on that important, powerful note. Mrs Mafu thank you very much for joining us today, it’s been an absolute pleasure to have you here for sharing your time and your wisdom with us.</p>
NOCAWE NONCEDO MAFU	<p><b>It’s very nice, I actually enjoyed it. Please call me again.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Most definitely. You have been listening to Womanity-Women in Unity, on Channel Africa the voice of the African Renaissance and we have been talking to Mrs Mafu the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements.</p>
<p><b>END OF PROGRAM</b></p>	