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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

**GUEST NAME: MARY-ANN LINDELWA DUNJWA – PARLIAMENTARIAN & CHAIR
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE HEALTH**

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Joining us on the line today is Member of Parliament Mrs. Mary-Ann Lindelwa Dunjwa who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. Welcome to the show Mrs. Dunjwa.
MRS. DUNJWA	Welcome and welcome to the listeners.
DR.MALKA	Mrs. Dunjwa you are responsible as Chairperson for the Portfolio Committee on Health and as I understand it the Portfolio Committees consist of three key functions, one as an oversight function; two from a law making point of view and thirdly promoting public inclusion. Can you please tell us a little bit more about your tasks specifically in the Portfolio Committee on Health and if there is any emphasis on women in the health sector.
MRS. DUNJWA	Thank you very much. My task as a chairperson or any chairperson of the Portfolio Committee is to ensure that business of the Portfolio Committee are conducted according to the constitution, the roles and the orders of parliament because you will remember that portfolio committees are an extension of parliament so that is one of the responsibilities but secondly, in that is to ensure that whoever is invited to come in front of the Portfolio Committee does that been given the necessary time to come and report and that includes, among others, the department and in the department we mean entities of the department; the DG's of the department and in fact the political head of the department which is the minister and his head deputy. And more and above that it is for us to ensure that in their programme and that's what as the portfolio committee we are always vigilant and emphatic on, that in whatever they do we ensure that issues of women, young girls and children are dealt with and are always elevated because our concern is that it is those people which are, among others, those that are poor, uneducated not because of the own making, that then at times are left behind, not because of any being deliberate in that but because some of them are not empowered and it is our responsibility to ensure that we empower them on their rights, in particular in the sector of health as women.
DR. MALKA	Mrs. Dunjwa while we're talking about women one of the outputs of health is to decrease the rate of maternal and child mortality, which was also one of the millennium development goals, can you please tell us what interventions are underway to help deliver and achieve this target, whether it is about postnatal care or education programmes?
MRS. DUNJWA	What we can as the Portfolio Committee, we are proud and very confident on that the minister of health for the department they have developed and produced a programme that I think that you are aware of that is called the Mom Connect, it is one of the most powerful programmes in this country

	that has ever been developed because through that programme, women are being reached on time, women's lives are saved on time which it is one of the programmes that have been developed to avoid or to minimise the maternal deaths that has been happening in this country, more in the rural areas, that programme that we think that we have managed to, although we have not reached what we think we have in terms of the minimum goals but we think we have made a tremendous improvement in that area.
DR. MALKA	And Mrs. Dunjwa if I'm not mistaken the Mom Connect Programme, that is your mobile application programme, is that correct?
MRS. DUNJWA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	This is one of I think an incredible use with our capability of technology and being able to access women in rural as well as urban environments because that particular application it's mobile run, it helps communicate with mothers during their pregnancy. Can you give us an idea in terms of the success rate on some of the numbers in the programme?
MRS. DUNJWA	Well in terms of the numbers I won't, my apologies, I won't have the actual numbers but the success rate in the....they differ according to where people are located and in the urban areas we have made a tremendous success, remember that there's always the challenge of network because we are using a department people are using cell phones, my apologies, and therefore in that area, in the urban area, we think that we have made a tremendous success. The challenge will be in the rural areas because in some of the rural areas network is a challenge but also a device that is used by a particular mother may not be having some of the applications that a person in the urban area will be having and in the next, when we go back in the next term this year, it's one of the things that we are then going to ensure that we work together with the department of communications and science and technology because remember it is those two departments that are to ensure that in those areas, in particular the rural areas, that it is improved but apart from that I think even in the rural areas where they are able to say that they have got the applications, we have managed to make, as the department have managed to make a tremendous improvement in the areas of maternal mortality deaths.
DR. MALKA	So it's a great initiative of being able to really empower women and putting something that is so useful right in her hand.
MRS. DUNJWA	And in fact, can I just say and I want to, for the benefit of the listeners that it is the first of its kind in this country, that programme of the Mom Connect and we want every, every mother, every woman wherever, irrespective of social conditions to look into, to look into that and ensure that they are then...if they are using public institutions that is what we are encouraging them to use because it is one of the greatest programmes this country has ever, in particular, around the area of health.
DR. MALKA	Mrs. Dunjwa is it a free programme and a free application?
MRS. DUNJWA	It is a free it is a free application, what a million dollar question. This question now is that means we will have to, when we are going to be conducting our oversight, that is what we are going also to be looking into but in my understanding it is a free, it is a free programme.
DR. MALKA	Besides Mom Connect, are there any other mobile applications or other MHealth applications from the department that are planned for the future?
MRS. DUNJWA	We are planning for the future what is called the.... a programme that has always been there which is going to assist for a, if I can make an example, we are going to resuscitate it, it depends from province to province, that if I can make an example, if a patient is still in a rural area and a surgeon or a

	<p>physician which is in paediatrics, if I can make an example, they are going to be able without a patient being told to go to come to PE, if the patient is in the rural area, to come to PE where the surgeon is, but there is going to be a system that is going to enable a doctor in that rural clinic to be able to communicate and the one in the urban, which is in PE, is going to be able to see that through technology which is called now..... I just missed the word, I will come back as you we are talking I will come back to that point, it is a system that is also going to enhance the delivery of health system in our country.</p>
DR. MALKA	And is this Telemedicine?
MRS. DUNJWA	What is called, it's a system called Telemedicine.
DR. MALKA	Telemedicine. Mrs Dunjwa thanks very much for highlighting all of those aspects of the integration of not only one with the health, the function within the health portfolio but also how it also includes science and technology as well as department of communications.
DR. MALKA	Today we're talking to member of Parliament Mrs. Mary-Ann Lindelwa Dunjwa who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health
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DR. MALKA	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're talking to Mrs. Mary-Ann Dunjwa who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk.
DR. MALKA	In our previous segment the conversation Mrs Dunjwa highlighted some of the developments that are taking place within the Portfolio Committee and specifically in the Department of Health enlightening us on the Mom Connect Programme which is a programme combining MHealth to communicate with mothers during their pregnancy and she also touched base on new developments by way of Telemedicine which will help people within the rural community have access to doctors who are working within the urban community. Mrs. Dunjwa this programme 'Womanity – Women in Unity' is all about gender equality which is increasingly a global focus and as such building female leadership capacity is important for the future of women in Africa and in fact across the world, how do you see female leadership in South Africa, in particular?
MRS. DUNJWA	Well I think as a country we have done....we are doing very well in female leadership but it is, it is my understanding that leadership is quite broad, it's in the institutions of... it's in government, it's in the society, it's in the religious sector and in society I mean also it's at home and I do think that we have done, we have made very great strides because we have developed legislations that are empowering women and women now are able to stand up and voice areas where they are not satisfied, voice areas where they are comfortable, voice areas where there must be an improvement and for me that is also part of leadership and we have seen in parliament, for that matter, that we have increase the number of women if I can say now, more than 50% of committees in parliament are led by women and we have got executive mayors, we have got speakers, we have got premia's. I know for a fact that it's an area where we are being criticised but it is my understanding that speakers are the most powerful people in the institution and the speaker of the National Assembly is a female, the speaker of the....chairperson of the National Council of Provinces is a female and I do think that we have made there.....where we are a bit still bordering in being weak it's in the private sector and I think we need to improve a great deal

	and I think that even in the judiciary we have improved, so I think as a country we are relatively doing well.
DR. MALKA	You are absolutely right in terms of the progress that we've made within leadership positions within the political spectrum and that the private sector is an area which is still underrepresented by women, and on that point, what areas do you think that we need to build on to help benefit women in the future and to try to, particularly in the private sector, to get that reality of 50/50 representation?
MRS. DUNJWA	You will remember that we are a country that has been that is coming from a history of stereotype. Stereotype in terms of that things will always be done better by men, irrespective of race, irrespective of a sector I mean including in business, and I do think that even in politics for that matter, but that has been proved in terms, in even in education, that has been proved. You will understand that we are coming from a culture within the in the African societies that women are the role of a woman is in the kitchen but now we are seeing that women are coming up and the encouragement of ensuring that any person, irrespective whether, irrespective of gender, any person must ensure that that person is educated and therefore institutions like parliament are to ensure that legislations are monitored, legislations are reviewed, legislations are amended to ensure that women are being given a chance to empower themselves on scales irrespective whether it's in health, whether it's in education, whether it's in business, whether it's in law, in whatever, so it's going to be important that we develop, as law makers, we develop laws and we monitor them, laws that are going to improve women, not only the status of women in terms of education, not only in South Africa but in Africa, that's why I am saying we are coming, as South Africa we are part of the stereotypes that have been there in the world but we are making strides and for that I think we need to be commended in South Africa. There is still lots to be done we know that there .are still challenges but I think that as a country we have made good strides.
DR. MALKA	Yes we have and from a parliamentary point of view I think we are ranked ranked between 6 th and 8 th in the world in terms of female representation and I think that the more we have women playing active roles in the public domain and private domain they provide the effect of role modelling in order to help and to demonstrate to younger women and also to men in terms of the capabilities that women have and what they can achieve. In South Africa there are two million women more than men and according to the South African Council of Higher Education the ratio female to male graduates in tertiary institutions stands in women's favour at 60% versus 40%, but women are still experiencing gender discrimination across most sectors of society as you've just highlighted from our patriarchal background. If women could just use their use their electoral power and participate in every forum where democratic elections take place, whether that's in school committees, town council or political parties, they would actually have the majority and in effect change the way that our country looks, what is your intake on this perspective and in your opinion do you think we are doing enough to educate women about their rights?
MRS. DUNJWA	I think we are doing enough, what, sorry, what I think we need to improve on is that we are to ensure that all our laws are in language of choice so that every woman irrespective of language for instance in Xhosa, in Tswana, in Sepedi because if we don't do that it will only be women that have been fortunate to learn English which is a medium of discussion but for us to ensure that women are empowered and understand all their rights and understand why they are to vote and understand why it is important for

	<p>them to be assertive, when I mean assertive is that go to school but understand that you are not only, we are no more minors in terms of what the constitution is saying in our country and understand that they have also got that responsibility and a right to raise issues that they are not comfortable with but also those that are that they are comfortable with, also those they want to improve, we will be doing, we must ensure that in whatever we do, we ensure that women are exposed to language of their choice and when they are to read and empower themselves with the laws in parliament that is why we will always ensure that even when we debate, we debate in vernacular so that we understand that we are not only talking to ourselves but we are also talking with people outside that are to be empowered on what we are saying and using our eleven languages within that, that is very important because it's part of empowerment.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It's part of empowerment, it's also addressing the diversity of our culture and with eleven official languages it really emphasises that there are many people in our country who may not necessarily understand English and in order for people to comprehend and grasp what their rights are, they have to be able to understand them within their own language and cultural context.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Today we're talking to member of Parliament, Mrs. Mary-Ann Lindelwa Dunjwa and Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health.</p>
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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're talking to member of Parliament, Mrs. Mary-Ann Dunjwa who is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Health. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter@WomanityTalk.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>In the previous segment Mrs. Dunjwa highlighted some of the elements in terms of progression for women's development, particularly from a legislative perspective, empowerment and for women to become more assertive in their own right. Now Mrs. Dunjwa turning more towards your personal space, today you are Chairperson of Portfolio Committee on Health and you deal with issues which affect every single South African citizen's life and as such you've become a role model providing evidence to many women in girls in South Africa, that with hard work and personal sacrifice everything can be achieved. Can you please share with us some of the responsibilities that come with being a member of parliament and having such a demanding career?</p>
MRS. DUNJWA	<p>Well some of the responsibilities of being a member of parliament are quite challenging. The first is that you are a representative of the people and it then needs you as a person to humble yourself, humility is one of the biggest things so that you are able to understand people are able to come closer to you so that's number one and number two, by being a member of parliament is that we are.....we develop laws, we monitor those laws, we ensure that we play....we exercise our oversight by ensuring that the executive, we oversee the executive, so that whatever the executive is doing is for the benefit of the people. Where we see a need of ensuring that we amend the laws that's what the other thing that we do. We implement, as you know that parliament is an arena where open debates are then being made and that is what it also ensures that people are exposed to all the things that we are doing. We conduct oversight, you asked me about the role and the responsibility of the chair in the Portfolio Committee, we invite....people are invited if the committees are going to sit, it's an open, it's open to public, everybody's expected to go and attend so it's one of those things we do what is called public hearings, go and communicate with people if there are legislations that is to be amended or that is to be</p>

	<p>developed and to get what people what is it that people are saying, are they comfortable because we are also to account to our people as much as we are to ensure that the executive accounts, but we are also accountable to the people of South Africa who elected us, irrespective of the political party and you'll remember that we are in a democratic South Africa, among other things, in parliament we choose, we elect a president but what is also important that as public representatives people must know that we have got power given to us by the constitution, the authority to make laws and orders that are governed by parliament. We are the legislative arm of the state and therefore we are independent of one another as judiciary and the executive and as parliament, that is one of the things that we do, we develop our own rules and orders that governs us as members of parliament. But what I want to emphasise in this debate is that as much as we are to ensure that other people account, we are also accountable to everybody, irrespective of whether that person is rich or that person is poor, that person is educated or that person is uneducated, but more and above it is the poor and those that unfortunately they are not educated, not because of their own making, and we are then a bridge of ensuring that their social conditions of life is being changed.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>There's tremendous responsibilities that come with the position both towards making sure there is governance of government but also responsibilities for the citizens of our country. Mrs. Dunjwa you've had a long career, can you please share with us some of the gender challenges that you've experienced and overcome during your career?</p>
MRS. DUNJWA	<p>Well it's quite a.... I learned there's one person that has always....was my role model, that was my mother. When my father was arrested was in exile and my mother had to take care of us when we were very young, she was subjected to a number of challenges that made her to say to us one thing that you must understand, you must understand that you are a human being that has got a right to say and a right that goes with responsibility. You've got a right to say no but it is your responsibility to ensure that you always ensure that you humble yourself, you ensure that you are assertive, you ensure that you don't undermine other people but it's not going to be very easy, it's easier, I always say it's easier said than done because you will know that we are in a situation in the community where men, it has always been said men are the heads of the family and whatever the men say or do you must always succumb but as we learned as we grew up in the struggle and in our areas of work we pick up...and I think one of the other things that has assisted me is that the factor that I chose to be....I wanted to be a lawyer in fact but because of the circumstances beyond my control I ended up in the health sector and remember that the health sector it's one sector that is dominated by females but there were also males, males that will always think that we must listen to them but we always say one we are the majority, but two, together there is nobody who is more powerful than the other, together we must ensure that we do the work and it has never been easy but it also needed a person to be able to strike the balance between assertiveness and arrogance because they...we always make that mistake that you don't strike, because there's a thin balance between, there's a thin line between assertiveness and arrogance and my mother always tell us that ensure that you are not arrogant so that everybody, irrespective, respects what you say, wherever you are.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Your mom sounded like an incredibly wise woman.</p>

<p>MRS. DUNJWA</p>	<p>Well she was and in fact two women in my life that have managed to mould me to who I am today was my grandmother on my father's side and my mother because when my father was not around it was my grandmother who was always there to assist my mother, she was not educated, she was an ordinary daughter of a peasant but she was very assertive and she will give us directives but it is now that we are able to see that those directives in fact, both from those two women, are directives that have made us to where we are today as our siblings and I want to say they always tell us humility, humility, humility and my grandmother always used to say to us, humble yourself wherever you are because you don't know what tomorrow holds for you.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>Well it sounds that they were two great influences on your life, who shaped and impacted you in the form of your grandmother and mother. One of the questions I ask all my guests on this programme who've made tremendous achievements in their respective fields is about the factors that they consider to have contributed to their success, some speak about hard work others talk about perseverance, in your opinion what have been the key drivers to your success?</p>
<p>MRS. DUNJWA</p>	<p>In adding to perseverance, hard work is being focused, focused empowering yourself because empowerment is one of the greatest with the skills that are going to enable you to move to open all the open all the doors because when you are not empowered in terms of the skills you are not going to be able to open the doors for yourself and I think those are the other things but I want to hammer on this thing that it's humility, being focused, persevere, hard working, humbling yourself and I think that's what made me and it doesn't mean that I've never made mistake in my life, I have made mistakes in my life but in taking one step back you quickly resuscitate yourself and say in fact, you are what you are not because of you but because of ensuring that you humble yourself in front of everybody, irrespective, and that's what I think are lessons that I have drawn from the people which I have always admired.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>I think that those are all admirable human characteristics and things that people should all be striving for. Now unfortunately we are coming towards the end of our show, Mrs. Dunjwa in closing the discussion please will you share a few words of inspiration which you would like to pass on to women in Africa who are listening to us today?</p>
<p>MRS. DUNJWA</p>	<p>I want to say to every women in Africa, in South Africa and in Africa who is listening to this programme, who may have gone through difficult times, life is about there's a book that I read by Lyanla Vanzant that is called, titled "Value in the Valley" and that book says in whatever situation, circumstances, environment that you find yourself in, one thing that you must know is that when you fall you must stand up and persevere and in persevering it means that we are to empower ourselves so that as we empower ourselves there's a saying that says when you empower a woman, when you educate a woman you empower a society and I want to say to all those sisters, my sisters that are there, my mother's that are there, my grandmothers that are there, my daughters that are there, my great granddaughters, my granddaughters that are there that life is about ensuring that you are empowered, life is about ensuring that you are humble, life is ensuring that you are assertive so that you are able to move on, it is not easy but with those skills and those words we are able to move on as women and we will, together, united as women, we can change the in the world.</p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>Thank you very much for that inspiring message. It's been such a pleasure having you on our show today, thank you for joining us.</p>

MRS. DUNJWA	Thank you very much.
	PROGRAMME END