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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: MINISTER SOFIA SIMBA

| SPEAKER                          | TRANSCRIPTION   |
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| DR. MALKA<br>(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<br>(GUEST<br>SYNOPSIS) | Today we're joined by Tanzania's Minister of Community Development, Gender and Children, Mrs Sofia Simba who reflects on the twenty-fifth African Union Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa where Heads of State and Government of the 24 member States of the African Union congregated. The Summit was held under the theme Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063, which is a fifty year framework 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 agribusiness value chains, to enhance women's access to health, to push forward woman'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. Welcome to the show, Minister.  |
| MINISTER<br>SIMBA                | <b>Thank you.</b>   |
| DR. MALKA                        | Minister, in terms of your expectations with the conference, has it fulfilled your expectations?  |
| MINISTER<br>SIMBA                | <b>It has but we still have a long way to fulfil our expectations, we are waiting for the implementation but as far as the Declaration and the call for action from the Heads of States that has been adopted and now it is upon member states to start implementing what we have put in the call of action and our declaration. So there is a long way to go, it's one thing making declarations and call for actions and it's another thing implementing, as you know, very well know, most of the gender ministries, all over Africa are under-resourced, financially. So what we've have done, we've asked member states to have a paradigm shift, to change the mentality of underfunding our ministries so that we can implement the very good policies which have always been in our governments but are not being implemented but on top of that we have come up with other issues which are very important, as you might very well know that in Africa, a woman feeds the whole continent. It's the women who are farmers, now we're saying, these women cannot keep on using rudiment means of agriculture. We want women to use modern equipments to reduce the burden of the work because their mothers, they earn their living through tilling the land. So in this meeting we are lucky, that the AU, African Union itself has managed to tell the leaders that we want to take the hoe, you know what is</b> |

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|                       | <p>a hoe? It should go to the museum. Now we should start using the power tillers, the tillers for the land and not use the hoe. And we are very pleased and excited that all countries have been given one tiller. We are going home with one tiller. That is a commitment to the leaders, to our leaders in our countries, Heads of States, that AU, especially Dr Zuma herself, is behind this. She said, you go with this and we want the report, this is just an example, next time we meet we want to know how many power tillers are there, how many women have been able to access this modern equipment of farming. So by and large, the meeting has been very successful, it is up to the countries now to implement what has come.</p>  |
| DR. MALKA             | <p>And Minister so the priority on the implementation side will absolutely be through agribusiness, agriculture for women and looking at putting in place mechanisms specifically on having mechanised development for farming practices. Are there any other priorities that you feel would be, would go first towards implementation when you return?</p>  |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <p><b>The other priority is that it is about the banks. They have to change the ways of dealing with women.</b></p>  |
| DR. MALKA             | <p>So Minister, you're talking about from a funding point of view?</p>   |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <p><b>Ja, ja. We say, we have to now ... funding from banks from wherever should flow to women. We are tired of having a certain amount kept aside for women, which is very little, very inadequate and then that fund which is kept for women is never being made available. It's just a lip service, so now we think we have to work more aggressive towards, first women should be capacitated to know the importance of getting loans, big loans, we shouldn't go for small, small lip service, no we have to, ourselves to change and as is well known in Africa most of the women are not that well educated so what we are saying is that education should be the key to everything and in this Agenda of 2063 we are lucky that we are starting the Agenda, the ten year implementation plan, by first year starting with women. We say, we are going to stick there. It should be women in all projects that are coming, be it climate change, be it health, the woman is at the centre of everything. We believe we are the centre, so away with those days that women, we were found to be, by the way we are the women, we'd like to own this Agenda and not to be given some services which yields very little.</b></p> |
| <b>AD BREAK</b>       |  |
| DR. MALKA             | <p>In our previous segment we spoke about the needs for higher allocations, financial resources to gender ministries in Africa and to change the manner in which banks perceive women with respect to granting business loans. Minister, how do you think we will do in the next fifty years?</p>  |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <p><b>Mind you, the programme, 2063. These fifty years are not for us, they for the young people. Those who are in schools now and those who are going to be born. Education should change, the education that we give to our children, it should change into making them be confident that they can do something without even being employed, that education which teaches</b></p>  |

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|                | <p>them to trust into themselves, if they want to go farming, we know that not everybody cannot be a farmer but we want big scales farming conducted by this youth if financial resources are made available to them. So this is another thing, the funding, education and changing the means of farming by making mechanised more than using a hoe.</p>   |
| DR. MALKA      | <p>And Minister, education is absolutely a critical element in terms of helping women from a point of view, if a woman is more educated her family benefits, there is greater control on fertility rates, she enriches her family, her children are brought up in a more healthy environment. What are the infrastructure elements on education in Tanzania? Is the education available freely to people?</p>  |
| MINISTER SIMBA | <p><b>Ja. Education in Tanzania is supposedly free, although there are other elements which go with education which a family has to fend on, for instance, the books. The parents have to buy those books, uniforms, maybe transport to school, other small things but we've made education to be free. The basic education is free but when you go to the higher education, secondary education, there is very little amount to be paid. But now we have a new policy on education and that new policy of education we want to make education free and accessible to everybody. So, so far we are doing well because now we have secondary schools in every ward, secondary schools within the last ten years have increased tremendously. We didn't have those many secondary schools, now we have universities, more than, it's about more than thirty universities are in Tanzania.</b></p>  |
| DR. MALKA      | <p>More than thirty?</p>   |
| MINISTER SIMBA | <p><b>Yes.</b></p>   |
| DR. MALKA      | <p>That is an incredible achievement.</p>  |
| MINISTER SIMBA | <p><b>Yes. So it's universities everywhere but what our target now is for girls to go for Science subjects rather than all thinking of going for Arts and other things. We are having a problem that we don't have enough Science teachers of which the government is taking care of that and most, many many student teachers are trained and I give them bursaries so that they attract them to learn more on Science than other subjects. So we think we are going on the right direction, although, I also think we are also conducting Early Childhood Development Education. Tanzania, for some time, students were going especially those in the villages, whereas straight from home they were starting Standard 1, instead of going to crèche programme. So that is what we are embarking on, every school should have crèche programme for young kids so that they build them when they start Standard 1, they understand more than just a child of six years starting Standard 1.</b></p> |
| DR. MALKA      | <p>I think those are incredibly important developments and also from the fact that we have had the millennium development goals which there was a strong emphasis on universal primary education but what you've demonstrated from a Tanzanian point of view is that succession planning going from primary through to secondary and then onto tertiary. Minister, a question which is in a</p>  |

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|                              | <p>way related to this, I found that from a South African perspective, although our workforce in South Africa constitutes 44% of women 80% of our female workforce is working in low skilled underpaying positions and this is the function from elements of patriarchy and latent effects. What is the structure or is there a comparison in Tanzania?</p>  |
| <p><b>MINISTER SIMBA</b></p> | <p><b>The problem of the workforce and what type of work women do, it's almost the same in the whole continent because of the patriarchy system most girls were not doing, were not completing schools or the parents were favouring the boys to go for further studies. So most of these jobs were under the name of man. You can see them in the meeting, there are more black suits than our attires. You can see, clearly, but this thing is, slowly it's going to change, as far as Tanzania is concerned, now we have more girls going into universities than ever and they are doing very well. The results of the girls are becoming better than even the boys so we are very optimistic that come twenty years from now we will be even.</b></p>  |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p>             | <p>And I think that women have recognized that education is a critical tool of empowerment and I see a similar scenario in South Africa, where I think it's 53% of our tertiary enrolments are female.</p>   |
| <p><b>MINISTER SIMBA</b></p> | <p><b>It's the same with us, but we had a problem when they enrol, they are fifty-fifty but on continuing with the studies, there are drop-outs, girls drop-outs because of pregnancy, and some others, early marriages, but all this we are working on. The only thing that we are suffering from is the drop-outs, many girls do not finish their schools and we're trying to address it by having boarding schools but also by educating the mothers and the families to understand that they should talk to their children, traditionally, Africans, you don't talk to a baby girl about sex or don't do this but now we are telling them, talk to them and the teachers talk to them because these teachers who are there now, when they were in school those were not issues of discussion in schools, but now we are trying to educate the teachers that they should try and teach these girls the importance of sexual health and other things for their own benefit. So it's still a struggle. Even yesterday, when I was reading Tanzania's statement, one of the things that I talked about was, on our way to 2063, we will try, we will work hard towards reducing the drop-outs because we need these girls to go together with the boys towards 2063.</b></p> |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p>             | <p>And Minister, I find it interesting, you mentioned that there are lots of, still lots of black suits compared to our colourful attire with our women but what I have found remarkable and it makes me proud to be an African is the high representation of women that we have in Parliament, so from a South African point of view, we rank seventh in the world, Ruanda is ranked first, Senegal is ranked sixth, in terms of female representation. But yet when you look at so called First World countries, the U.S.A. is only ranked seventy-second, the U.K. fifty-eighth, France forty-fourth. It makes me wonder and I'm sure any learned person, how we could have a scenario like that, where our First World countries are so underrepresented by women but yet we as young democracies in Africa have really come to the fore. What's your perspective?</p>   |
| <p><b>MINISTER SIMBA</b></p> | <p><b>My perspective is that the First World has gone through all these processes in their ways but when it came to the Third World or the second ones, the Africans, the poor countries, they the ones who brought democracy to us and they were behind us, telling us, no, talking about</b></p>   |

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|                       | <b>discrimination, equal representation. It is them who came up with these things. It is not Africans and we adapted them very fast and there are places like South Africa. They have adopted a very good system, zebra system, automatically, women would be there and other places, my country we have automatic action to allow these women to get into the posts otherwise we would lag behind because we are yet still for women to understand that it is important to elect your fellow woman, simply because, mostly because of education.</b>  |
| DR. MALKA             | Do you think it's also socialisation that has taken place that women need to start changing their perspectives and appreciating their value?   |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <b>We have socialized, we have been socialized to think t men can do better. Now in order to fight that socialisation, that is why we came up with affirmative action which helped us a lot. I don't know about other countries but even in Kenya, it is because they had put special seats for women, it's only then you find Kenyans, men is there, of course Ruanda is a different issue, they're coming from war, now when people come from war, their mind-sets are quite different from those who are in peace. So we know we need to work more, women should go to the constituencies and contests with men on equal footings but that time is yet to come.</b>   |
| DR. MALKA             | And Minister, on your Affirmative Action Policies, from a South African point of view we are trying to get a fifty-fifty in terms of our Employment Equity and Empowerment Model and I know that Malawi has already instituted their Gender Bill, what type of quotas are you striving for?  |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <b>So far we don't have quotas, but it is our leaders, political will which has made them appoint a lot of personnel at high level join the government. We have many Judges, Directors and everywhere, we don't have quotas as far as civil servants is concerned but we are, our numbers are very encouraging, we are doing well, but now I understand areas like South Africa, Kenya, they even putting 30% quota on procurement. It is something that we also have to think about it and talk to our governments that there is need for this.</b>   |
| DR. MALKA             | For instance, in the construction space as well in South Africa, we've got quota systems to try to ensure, with construction being such a vital part of the economy, the women are having about 30% footing.   |
| <b>AD BREAK</b>       |  |
| DR. MALKA             | In our previous segment, we spoke about education across the spectrum, from early childhood development, through to primary, secondary and tertiary levels and the efforts under way to keep girls on track for their educational achievements. We've also spoke about some of the gender quota systems in the continent, which have enabled women to access opportunities that they were previously denied entry to. Minister, being a Gender Minister, for I believe you said it was nine years already, you've been a Gender Minister for a considerably long period of time. In that capacity you must have witnessed various discrepancies and conflicts between culture, between religion, between tradition and throughout that you have to negotiate and manage, we see the silver lining for women to move ahead. Can you tell us a little bit about how you've managed to do that? |

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| <p><b>MINISTER<br/>SIMBA</b></p> | <p>Ja. It's not easy to be a Gender Minister for all these years. It's difficult because of the socialisation of the communities, the men believe that it is their rights that a woman is just a tool to them but when you go and you change that mind-set, it is not easy, it has been a process to change the mind-set of the people on violence against women, we are still working on it. We have had to enact very stiff laws to make sure that violence against women stops but when we put that law, violence seemed to have increased but I tell them, no it has not increased, it is now women are reporting, now you think it has increased, no it used to go unnoticed. Women had nowhere to report. The same with children, right now we have a lot of cases, in the newspapers, everywhere, women or men going to the Police saying, in this house there is a child who is being abused. Or I've heard a child crying, that was never there, it used to be it's none of my business but through a lot of campaigns that we've done as government and other development partners we have managed, things are moving now very well. Violence is now seen not to be acceptable by almost everybody, except for the few but it used to be rampant everywhere. Now people do understand and I'm sure the campaigns have not stopped, we are still sensitising them. The police have been sensitised now they understand and when the woman comes to report, don't say, ja this is your family issues, they understand them. I'm happy at the stage that we have reached, although some people just come to me and say, no, no, no this thing has increased. No, it has not increased, we have a lot of problems which are now being publicised while they used to taboo, they used to be done secretly, for instance, we have a big problem of albino in my country.</p> |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p>                 | <p>In terms of abuse against albinos and discrimination?</p>   |
| <p><b>MINISTER<br/>SIMBA</b></p> | <p>Yes, some years back, way back, albinos they were being killed, once a child is born and seen, this is an albino, they used to just to kill it. That is the tradition, that is why it is only now we see so many albinos. You wonder where do they come from, because people now understand that these are human beings, like us, let us keep them. But now it came to arise, people they want to cut their hands, their ward for superstition, you know for ju ju and all these things. But all these things are being taken care of, but the most important thing is, now we know that nobody can kill an albino unnoticed or without being punished so that is why they are there and we see them.</p>   |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p>                 | <p>Education is critically important.</p>  |
| <p><b>MINISTER<br/>SIMBA</b></p> | <p>Yes, critical. Education is the key to almost every, everything and it should be adequate education, not just education.</p>  |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p>                 | <p>Quality.</p>  |
| <p><b>MINISTER<br/>SIMBA</b></p> | <p>Ja, the quality of education in my country has to be improved.</p>  |

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| DR. MALKA             | Minister, and you hold one of the highest positions in the country and in your capacity, you have become a role model. You've provided evidence to girls and women that with hard work and personal sacrifice anything can be achieved. What would be your advice to young girls, women who want to follow in your footsteps?   |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <b>What I can tell the young girls, is that they're lucky in my country, they're lucky that they're born in this generation, where schools are there for them, everything is there for them, they have to go for it. They have to study hard and they should take Science subjects as well as those who cannot take Science subjects, but they should study, the sky is the limit. With education nobody can take away your education, it stays with you so my number one advice to the boys and girls of my country, is to study hard, to grab the opportunities in front of them, they're very lucky, in fact studying these days is easier than it used to be with us. We used to spend hours in libraries looking for materials, with them they just have to surf the internet and get everything. They read from their telephones so they have to work hard and the governments of Africa understand that, this is the generation of the youth. We cannot do anything without them. It's them that we are worried about.</b> |
| DR. MALKA             | Minister Simba, thank you very much for sharing your time with us. We really appreciate it.   |
| <b>MINISTER SIMBA</b> | <b>Thank you for having me here.</b>  |
| <b>END OF PROGRAM</b> |   |