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**GUEST NAME: MRS DWARKA CANABADY – MAURITIAN SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
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 in studio today is Mrs Usha Dwarka Canabady who is Mauritius's Secretary of Foreign Affairs; she has held numerous postings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including serving as High Commissioner of Mauritius in India. Welcome to the show!
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>Thank you very much Doctor.</b>
DR. MALKA	You have recently attended this 37 <sup>th</sup> SADC Summit which was themed partnering with the private sector in developing industry in regional value change; industrial development is obviously a core focus of SADC's development integration agenda all for driving sustainable economic growth to create employment and naturally reduce poverty; can you share with us some of the highlights from the events and if it fulfilled your expectations?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>I think it was a great event and that it brought together a number of people to reflect on themes of common concern to SADC. Perhaps the central message I take away is the eradication of poverty. I think Minister Maite made it very clear that people talk about alleviation of poverty, in fact we should be talking about eradication of poverty and this brought me back to what Imran Ghandi had started at the time,....."remove poverty" so it's not a new phenomenon, it's simply that now the phenomenon of removing poverty or alleviating poverty is beginning to be seen not from one perspective only, from the government perspective, now the central focal point is government working with the private sector to eradicate poverty and working with civil society as well to do that.</b>
DR. MALKA	And if I'm not mistaken eradication of poverty also forms part of the sustainable development goals?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>It does form part of the sustainable development goals, I think it does form part of basic human rights that we perhaps have overlooked unwillingly all these years and what I think is important now is the identification of what poverty means in different societies. Of course there's one universal norm that at least a person has got to be able to have a decent meal, shelter and you know sufficient access to education as well but what I believe now is different is the coming together of different parts of society to work towards eradication of poverty is one; and two the emphasis governments are laying now on empowerment and that includes the empowerment of women especially. Women, if I take the case of Mauritius and a small island which is part of the territory of Mauritius called Orega where it's mostly a matriarchal society....</b>
DR. MALKA	...that's interesting....
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>...so you have a lot of single parent families and I think the women there are amongst the strongest that I know and I think that their empowerment knowing that they are the breadwinner and the rarer of the family, if I can</b>

	say it that way, makes a difference, so you need to go out and help these women because they have to get out of that poverty trap where some of them have been landed with having numerous children etc. But beyond that I think that you really need to find new ways of eradicating poverty without hurting the self-respect and dignity of the people who are poor.
DR. MALKA	And there's several programmes which come into play but I always think that when you are doing things with dignity, when you are doing things from yourself and you are being not a hand-out but a hand up you've got greater benefit and one of the areas that I find quite frustrating is from a financial inclusion perspective, that women often have limited access to finance and I think the reality is the only way you can come out of a poor economic situation is by having access to finance.
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	<b>Having access to finance is certainly important and we take the example of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh which was started and well....mainly most of the micro credit went to women entrepreneurs who actually...which actually helped them to grow but I mean for you to have access to finance it presupposes that you already have collaterals, that you already are the owner of something that will earn that finance which women in many countries are not.</b>
DR. MALKA	Exactly, particularly land.
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	<b>Particularly land but also beyond land I mean even tangible things, you either have to have a qualification, you have to have some kind of stable employment, something that is a collateral even in theoretical terms, for finance. Now if you're not in employment and you want to create something yourself what guarantees do you have to offer to anyone to get that finance so I think Mauritius certainly has been laying a lot of emphasis on credit for entrepreneurs, especially women entrepreneur and our current minister for enterprise I must say has laid a lot of emphasis on the role and the support that could be given to women entrepreneurs. Now what we did to help him was to organise a sort of AGOA workshop, AGOA is the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act that allows us to export with the United States and we thought we need to do one thing; the big companies export to the US because they meet all the norms, the small entrepreneur cannot meet all the norms. The woman especially they have more difficulty because being entrepreneur also means being a housewife at the same time and handling both office and home, so what we thought was let's bring in some experts from overseas, the US Embassy helped us so we brought in experts and then we said to them okay, now we'll look at your products, many of the products will never get to that market so we'll leave them aside and we can deal with them differently but some of the products were sufficiently good to get to that market, you needed just to upgrade a little bit, so this is where the American experts came in and we act as mediator because of language issues as well, on how to be able to connect these two markets. And then I suggested to them you know what we need to do? We need to create a website for these women assisted by professionals who can give immediate answers in English and in commercial terms. The women know how to create the product, they don't know how to commercialise their product, they don't know how to answer the questions about whether it meets 80% needs or it is an aqua product or whatever it is so you need that professional lynch, the .....as I say, the medium between the two, the market and the producer to do that. Women more than men because women will not take the time necessarily to then learn about all the requirements of a market, she is simply satisfied if she has sold so much to meet her requirements.</b>

DR. MALKA	And I think the other point goes back to where you were talking about managing the dual role of home and work that she possibly simply doesn't have enough time to go and invest into thoroughly investigating markets because she is balancing her household at the same time.
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>Absolutely but it just brings me back to a story I was trying to tell you about .....Greer. Many years ago I missed a talk on 8<sup>th</sup> March Women's Day in Geneva where I was serving and one of my colleagues from Trinidad and Tobago, Marianne Richards called me and said "where were you?" I said "I was busy working right", she said "oosha you should have come to the talk", I said "why?", she said "that's exactly what Mrs. Greer said that when women and men join an organisation they look at it differently. The woman comes in and looks at the organisation, looks at the work then she starts making lists, what I have to do for home, what I have to do for work and what I have to do for everybody else, not what I have to do for myself probably. The man comes in, looks at the organisation, looks around, he looks at the work and then he thinks who can I give this to and then he starts looking at the network and says hhhmmm this is the one who's back I must pat, this is the one I must hug, this is the one I must avoid." I was so absolutely stunned because what she was saying resonated a bell, you know.</b>
DR. MALKA	Strategic delegation. But to that point it's about the strength of networks and it's about the strength of looking at how you can manage your organisation to achieve what you want as your personal agenda as well as the entities agenda.
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>I think women we're very good with family networks. We're the ones who nurture the family network, we're the ones who make sure that the cousin, sister-in-laws, niece engagement is attended to and there's a gift on the table for that person but at the same time professionally we don't get...we don't take time to develop these networks. In Geneva again Marianne, myself and a few other colleagues, we founded a women's network. We did this because we noticed that there were very few women diplomats first of all, we didn't go for beers at night, we usually had coffee in the coffee shop so we decided that the women were going to gang together and at least help each other out, whether it's with hairdressers, children minding or whatever it was but at least sharing. But amazingly enough the WTO secretariat and the other secretariats around the UN and everybody else they have a lot of women so creating a small women's network did help us sort of feel that we could grow as a small network. I don't know whether it is still there but at the time certainly it was helpful I think having that one.</b>
DR. MALKA	Well I think what has surprised me in a pleasant way has been looking at the number of female diplomats in the South African perspective....
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>...yes....</b>
DR. MALKA	...so there are large numbers which for me shows that there are more and more women coming into the foreign affairs space and at a global level, it's not just concentrated to one particular region or country and on that note I'd like to find out in your current position as Secretary of Foreign Affairs if you could share with us a bit more of the work that you do and some of the responsibilities that come with holding this position?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>Okay let me tell you first of all I think you have a great number one diplomat. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane I think is a role model for many women diplomats in the foreign service in South Africa and a few women I have met from the South African Delegation have always been very strong women and I think they get inspired, so I think you'll find that there are</b>

	<p>more women in Africa and Asia in the diplomatic service than you will necessarily find in the western world, as much surprising this can be. I mean in trade certainly you have seen this to be the case, as I told you very often I have been the only woman in the whole so I'm used to it but then as time goes by I find an increasing feminisation of government services across the world and the emergence of women diplomats to me is a natural part of this, you know, it will happen in Mauritius right now I don't have as many as I would have liked to, it's about one third, but I think we're growing there more and more, we are now getting there but it's a hard job to be a woman diplomat because if we look at the tradition of looking after home and looking after work, although you share it with your spouse, that operating of the family every so many years can be a disturbing factor whether you're a man or a woman but even more so if you're a woman because it's easier even now because the mentality is for a woman to follow a man, not for a man to follow a woman out for the job. But as double career couples grow across the world and the world gets globalised I think maybe there's less judgement on the matter than there used to be. Now coming back to my job well the Secretary for Foreign Affairs is the person who comes right after the Minister of Foreign of Affairs, who is the person responsible for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs both from an accounting perspective, so I'm the head of administration as well as the head of policy. Now to add to my woes, if I can say it that way, my ministry is not simply a ministry of foreign affairs. I would double up as a secretary for trade, I also am responsible for all international trade and all the .....trade negotiations we do in Mauritius and I'm also responsible for regional integration. There are three components; ministry of foreign affairs, international trade and regional integration and currently Mauritius chairs the Indian Ocean Commission, so we have that responsibility of being responsible for regional economic communities but also the concept of regional integration itself. My job is like any other job, you know, I direct foreign policy, I direct trade policy, you decide what are the movements you are going to be making for regional integration, you look after anything concerning the lack of a car and what of a mission there is in the broken window pane in wherever happens as well but I'm supported by administrative staff to do that.</p>
DR. MALKA	It's an exciting portfolio I'd say.
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	Not too exciting when you have to worry about staff's personal woes but it's an exciting portfolio in the sense that foreign policy and international trade going together with regional integration is just the dynamics that you need to make things happen, I mean you can see...
DR. MALKA	...yes that they totally compliment each other...
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	...exactly they're complimentary.
DR. MALKA	And are there any particular collaborations that you're working on in the continent?
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	Absolutely I mean the continent right now the focus is on the CFTA, Continental Free Trade Area; the free trade area itself, we're talking about trade negotiations. Are there special collaborations? The diplomatic services or trade don't directly collaborate, what we do is we work together on a number of issues. I'll just give you one example, we'll be making an intervention of the Summit, SADC Summit this week is to point out two things, one – I'm calling...I'm informing SADC of a meeting that will be held by the Indian Ocean Commission that's going to be regrouping

	<p>ministers for home affairs. Why? This is related to drug trafficking and human trafficking. We believe that we need to look up close...we as SADC...need to look closer at real issues affecting our countries and economies. Traditional diplomacy needs to emerge to have a business outlook but it also must take care of sustainable development goals and every other element that's on agenda in 2063. If we are to create secure conditions for trade to take place or for diplomacy to take place you need to halve those secure conditions created by joining hands. The thing that's affected the most in the recent years has been the fact that the drug trade has been coming down south impacting on many of our countries, so when the drug trade arrives here we discovered much to our dismay that what we had taken for granted in terms of exchange of information was not really happening. Every time there was a problem arising we had to go and hunt for someone to get the information so we've spoken to the UNODC. The Indian Ocean Commission is going to try and create a memorandum of understanding with the UNODC to create a platform whereby the Indian Ocean islands which happens to be heavily impacted I think mostly Seychelles and Mauritius can actually work together so that they exchange information on any form of trafficking. You know we worked well together to fight piracy, we had a platform. This morning I had a word...we had a conversation with Mr. Pascal Lamy of the European Union explaining also where we want to go and I think there is merit in having those platforms created for us to come back together, human trafficking and drug trafficking, so I think SADC needs to look at this closely and we will be inviting them for the Indian Ocean Conference. The other thing is we want SADC to be more involved in other trade negotiations, not only the continental ones, but the one that we're likely to have with the European Union on .....the new trading arrangements.....after 2020, it's always been left to Brussels and our missions in Brussels to handles this. SADC, COMESA, the regional groupings and African Union must take a greater interest in this and formulate their positions and I think the same thing should happen when it comes to African growth and opportunity act, same thing should happen when it comes to ..... So I mean as you will see a lot of trade spills over onto diplomacy there by this lateral thing and it's only that way that we can grow regional integration. If we have created <b>common platforms to work on this is how we will integrate.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And in that commonality it's also about taking responsibility because I think in the past Africa was a victim to letting things go by and being a little subservient to what was happening but this sounds like we've got greater active participation and contribution into our affairs and affairs of the world.</p>
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	<p>Well you know fifty years after colonisation went away, you know, either we grow up or we don't grow up. Mauritius will be celebrating fifty years of independence next year so I mean we need in Africa to start worrying about our own things. Again I come back to your minister where she mentioned yesterday that Africa's thirty times bigger than India, how come they take more interest on the other side than with us and this morning again something was mentioned to me that perhaps the biggest mistake that was made in Africa was the frontiers and the creation of the frontiers encouraged people to consolidate these frontiers. So rather than to see ourselves as one Africa we're worried that when we go into a negotiation I might lose out a little bit and the other one will win a little bit more. You know that is old diplomacy.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It is but that silo of mentality it's pervasive beyond just within the diplomatic space but also in terms of the corporate environment as well where everyone</p>

	wants to own their section and gets quite possessive over what they have and their contributions and that no-one else is taking credit for something that they've done.
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>I totally agree with you but what I'm trying to say is that we need to evolve our mentality, you know, with sustainable development goals, nobody is going to manage this alone, so if we're going to join hands to do sustainable development goals we'd better join hands to make sure each other, everybody else is going to benefit in a negotiation, it's no longer I win, you lose. It's really got to be I win, you win because without you in any case I'm not going anywhere.</b>
DR. MALKA	Yes I like that philosophy and having a sum of all gains.
DR. MALKA	You are listening to "Womanity – Women in Unity" on Channel Africa, the African Perspective, on frequency 9625 KHz, on the 31 meter band. Also available on DSTV on Channel 802. Today we're talking to Miss Usha Dwarka Canabady who is the Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Mauritius. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter: @WomanityTalk.
DR. MALKA	One of the things that "Womanity –Women in Unity" deals with is gender and that's clearly one of the main guises of the programme and gender equality is a particularly important issue and firstly I'd like to ask you; what is the state of gender equality in Mauritius?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>I would think that Mauritius is quite good, you know, in terms of gender equality, it's been growing with the years. There's been some quite legislation adopted that's been helping, you know, we need to adopt the legislation to make sure that people at least have a legal framework to which they can refer, so I think the adoption of several pieces of legislation from the Equal Opportunities Act I think in 2009, the amendment to Article 16 of the Constitution to make discrimination on the basis of sex is not possible, these are elements which have helped, but at the same time look at the irony of it all; you amend Article 16 to make sex discrimination not acceptable but that also means you can no longer give positive discrimination to women or programmes to women as well so you have difficulties joining the SADC gender protocol because of that for example. I personally believe that the education act; the gesture made by Mauritius to give free education to children up to tertiary level has made a big difference. Education to me is the only way in which women can move ahead and can change mentalities. If you look at the civil service again, I come back to what I was saying earlier, we see an increasing feminisation of the civil service and recently the International Trade Division and the Regional Integration Division in the ministry recruited analysts and I was a little bit chuffed to find that six analysts in trade; five women on man, six analysts in regional integration; five women one man, so I thought that seems to be growing. I just need to....I'll take one example again at the level of parliament; in 2000 we had 5.7% of women in parliament, today we have 11.4%, slow growth, much below the SADC target but I think it's growing slowly and slowly...it's a mentality thing isn't it? People are getting round to accepting that women are in parliament, there's a woman speaker, there are women ministers and they are not only ministers for gender, the minister of education which takes one quarter of the budget of government is a woman.</b>
DR. MALKA	And I think it works both ways, one from a point of view of acceptance and recognition that women can achieve this; that women are in those positions and also from a point of view of role modelling and mentorship that women can aspire and recognise that this is possible, that women can hold these positions.
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Absolutely I mean I think women in those positions never think of it that</b>

<b>DWARKA CANABADY</b>	way and then we realise that perhaps yes other people are looking at it and thinking that these are posts which we can aspire to, which would not normally have been the case but I just want to come back quickly I mean to the civil service you know, today when we look at the number of highest positions in civil service we find 28.6% of women occupy senior positions. Now the younger generation coming in at assistant permanent secretaries 59.7% already are women, 60% already are women so whether you like it or not the civil service divided by so many but which at the end of the day takes so many decisions both for government, for restructuring, for making things happen, well that civil service is going to be.....
DR. MALKA	...for the country...
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	...for the country is going to be run largely by women in the years to come as I see it. The judiciary in Mauritius has always had a lead I must say, half the judges are women and magistrates as well I think there are 70% of the current magistrates are women.
DR. MALKA	So given the current framework, the feminisation of the diplomatic core and...
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	...as well...
DR. MALKA	...and affairs and education was one of the areas that you highlighted and I know that you have a particular interest in education when I looked at your CV you spent a long time in the ministry; in your opinion which areas do you think we need to build on to improve and benefit for women in the future?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	I'm not sure I can give an answer to which areas we need to focus on to improve on, I think we need to do two things. One is formal education, from the time the child goes to kindergarten let's make sure they have role models, let's make sure that the men and women are seen as equal, I don't see why we don't have more male kindergarten teachers, we only have female kindergarten teachers, it starts there, we could have both raising the children together you know. Second thing is that mentalities will grow when it comes to home, media. Recently I read an article which was saying like the arrival of more women in the civil service had not made much difference. I've never known this person to say the presence of men in civil service should have made a difference. I'm just telling you mentality because the mentality is more pervasive than we think and the media is not sufficiently screened to that extent in shaping mentalities and ways of thinking, so I think we need to have that education outside which is perhaps even more important for the older minds and for the younger minds within the formalised educational system itself. But beyond that we need to find some ways of doing positive discrimination to help women be present. I'm against a quota system for politics for example or for anything for women.
DR.MALKA	Why is that?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	Because I don't feel that we should be in on the basis of quota, I think maybe it's a question of ego, I'm feeling like what the hell I'm good enough to be there why should I need a quota to be there right? But then I say to myself in my mind now when I look back you don't have the problem if you are good and you're at the top, you have the problem when people start looking at the middle management, if there is a woman who is less good than her colleagues, if a man is less good than his colleagues they will not say man, if a woman is less good than her colleagues they will say woman....literally find a sex to that less weak...
DR. MALKA	...and it's a whole package.....
<b>SECRETARY</b>	...it's a whole package. I hadn't noticed this until recently when I had

<b>DWARKA CANABADY</b>	somebody saying well we shouldn't be posting women there and I said well you have to let them decide whether they want to go there or not you know, you can't decide for them but that mentality, I'm not sure we can eradicate it so easily but by forcing the quotas there, by ensuring their presence for the next ten years, fifteen years it might just be that it becomes a natural thing.
DR. MALKA	You see sometimes I look at it as a ticket to the game. So if you've got a quota system there for me it's about being able to get women to that point and I look at it as something which would change over time 'cause obviously we believe in a meritocracy I mean I think anyone who wants to be in a position you want to feel that you earned that role and you deserve to be there, but if you have all of the qualifications and the criteria of being there but because you are a woman you're denied access, that's where I see the quota system as a shift....
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>....., I think quotas over a limited period of time until we get where we need to get. Now we've got to accept things I mean there are never going to be more women drivers...lorry drivers than men lorry drivers, there might never be more men models than women models or whatever you want, you know, but again we've just got to accept it and it really doesn't matter whether we are 50/50 or there's 40/60, there's 70, as long as the route to get there is not discriminatory towards the gender part.</b>
DR. MALKA	Exactly that that opportunity is always there. You mentioned earlier the emphasis on formal education and I'm certainly an advocate of education, but I'd like you to share with us some of your views of education, particularly in the hands of women as a tool to change not only their lives but also the next generation's lives for the better.
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>Women I say we are our own worst enemies sometimes but I mean if we've been brought up in a system that says that the woman must be nice and nurturing and mustn't be spoken about, what do you expect that person to inculcate to her son or her daughter? The same values and those same values mean that this is entrenched in you for generations to come. You raise a son and that son will live seventy years or eighty years so for the next eighty years you've created that mentality...</b>
DR. MALKA	...a vicious circle...
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>...yes and the second the person who comes after you, your daughter will carry a little bit of that mentality as well forward so the nurturing part, the informal part needs real shaking up. I think people have values that are entrenched in us and we have to live with those values but at the same time we need to see the rationale as well, that many of these values did not have a good rationale behind it and we need to be able to shake that up, you cannot do it simply through a formal system of education, you need to move that a little bit and this is why to me kindergarten children, kindergarten need to have both male and female teachers, why aren't we having more men there.</b>
DR. MALKA	And I read...I recall I think sort of children between the ages of four to six that's sort of their most formative years....
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>...absolutely....</b>
DR. MALKA	...so that's when they're seeing these role models and identities...
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>....but just to tell you my basic training was in psychology. What I wanted to do was to write the curriculum of children, school curriculum. I wanted to decide what children are to study and so I've done a lot of teacher training for youngsters as well, for the teachers of kindergarten as well and I'd realised then that we have a...even in what we're putting in their minds</b>

	is a bias. If it was up to me I would open a kindergarten, I'd bring an old washing machine and put it there and open it and say guys let's look how this is working right? Open up their minds, let them think, let them stop thinking about gender, let all the men and women clumber over the washing machine and go find out what's it made up of. Discover together...
DR. MALKA	...I think that's a good call....
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	...so you don't have to discover separately.
DR. MALKA	Staying with the gender agenda, building female leadership capacity I think is incredibly important for the future of women to the continent and I'm impressed that Mauritius has a female president and I wanted to find out more of your opinion of female leadership in Africa and if you think more countries are ready for a woman president?
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	I think so, yes. I think it's wonderful, Mauritius has a great female president, she's a...she's a person the young people and the young women.....look up to and she's not an executive president but she's the head of state. We have a woman speaker who occupies a very prominent position that's higher than ministers, we have women ministers, we have women in a lot of prominent positions; I think that's important. Across Africa you'll find even more women in prominent positions and I think the case of President Johnson Sirleaf who's now left, and with what dignity, I mean you know I mean such a role model to look upon, a person who's done so well for Africa, but there's so many others. I can imagine this country being run by a woman president, I can imagine many countries in Africa being run by a woman president, Joyce Bandi in Malawi, I mean there have been lots of examples in Africa where we can have more and more women, I have no doubt about that. Now the question is whether the issue is one of "womanity" as you would say it or the question is of belonging to a clan or group, or whatever it is. In Mauritius I think Mrs. Gurib-Fakim was on the basis of her merits, she's a scientist, she's done a lot of work, propose the appointment to the role of presidency but in other cases where you have to fight elections to become president you need to belong to political groups right?
DR. MALKA	Of course...
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	...so is it only the gender issue or is it the grouping issue that also counts for example? But to me Africa can be a leader in this, I have no doubt whatsoever.
DR. MALKA	I'm really glad to hear that. One of the questions which I ask all my guests on this programme who've made significant contributions to their respective fields is about some of the factors to their success. So some people speak about hard work, perseverance; can you share with us some of the factors that you think have contributed to making you the person you are today?
SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY	That's a difficult question. I think certainly the...you know you always think of yourself that am a person anyone looks at as being a success, right? If that is the case now am I supposed to find what made me actually become that and then you go back and....I think family is the most important right. And in family I think certainly my grandmother was a widow, a foreigner and a widow at the age of thirty two on a small island, so I mean you have to survive. She was the owner...my grandmother would have been over a hundred today had she been alive so you imagine the times. My father who financed the university education of my mother, even after she was married and had three children and he paid for her to go and study when he himself was not a university graduate. That demands some

	<b>kind of courage.</b>
DR. MALKA	And progressive thinking.
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>And progressive thinking. My mother who herself I think came back and decided she was not going to give into all these rituals and rites and all those...you know she was a very strong headed person, had a hands-on approach to things, in fact today I'm talking to you and it's exactly one year since she passed away and I'm very sorry I'm not home but I think I've had a great mother, she was very courageous, she was very brave and I think she braved all the taboos to go and get a university education to bring back and to do what she had to do and my uncle and aunty, my mom's brother and sister, my other aunties who were in politics who have done wonderful things, I mean we have strong women and strong men in the family so I think you get it from there, but also I think at work. When you start off work, when I walked into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the first question that was raised to me, somebody was walking said what will you do when you're married? I hadn't even thought about it at that time and I didn't realise maybe....it was a good thing I didn't realise the consequences of what this job was going to bring for me and I said well we'll cross the bridge when we come to it and I just brushed him aside. Now years later when my husband and I had to take decisions life was very complex, but somehow we managed it. But I've had a good husband, somebody who's had his own political career, who's known what life is about and who's had no ego issues about our having to be...about my going to do a job, running the show as we say and he's doing other things. The only thing he's refused to do for me is lay my table or that kind of thing. Then it's funny I'm away from Mauritius and just before I left one of the banks called me and said you know you used a sentence in our meeting the other day, can we use that, we like that, we want to put it on our invitation card? I said what was the sentence? Apparently...which I did actually, I told them "our biggest problem as women in the banking system is that we do not have wives, we only have husbands". Now we want that wife to look after our financial problems and to run the bank for us and also to run the home for us you know, so I was saying that when women come to a bank they're looking for a soul mate, that personal banker that you have. For a man it's a person who will guide the financial transaction, for the woman it's a sub-sister who's going to say by the way you know I've seen how your money is and I think you can make an investment there, by the way you haven't done the payment for your son yet, you know, so you're looking for your soul sister. So strong people are the people in our professional and personal surroundings who always made us feel there are no barriers there, you just do what you have to do and get on with it.</b>
DR. MALKA	I think that's a lovely perspective, looking at the influence of people and support. Now lastly as we close out the show today, it is the last programme in women's month in South Africa so we'd appreciate it if you could share a few words of inspiration which you'd like to convey to young women across the continent?
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<b>I'm one of you. Like you. We'll work together to make this place better. There will always be obstacles in the way and I think there will always be high mountains and there'll be moments which are difficult and I think what needs to keep us going is to look right and left to remember that out in Asia there there was an Imran Ghandi, out in Asia there's been an .....Suti, out in Africa you've had Mrs. Sirleaf, you've had Maite Mashabane, you've had Mrs. Zuma, you've had very strong women. Don't be derided or thwarted by what newspapers have to say or people have to</b>

	<p><b>say, look at the person, look at these people who have achieved. Show me how many women who can show in Europe and Americas who have been as successful. In Africa as in Asia I think we have women power because we have known how to handle more than our share so I think together we will do it together, we will move. Thank you.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Thank you for that message of unity. It's been a wonderful pleasure having you on our show today we really appreciate it.</p>
<b>SECRETARY DWARKA CANABADY</b>	<p><b>Thank you.</b></p>
<b>PROGRAMME END</b>	