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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: DM HENRIETTA IPELENG BOGOPANE-ZULU - DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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 in our Pretoria studio today is South Africa's Deputy Minister of Social Development, Henrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu. She has served as an MP for four terms and in that period she was appointed as Deputy Minister for Public Works; Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People With Disabilities and thereafter to her current portfolio as Deputy Minister of Social Development. Welcome to the show!
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	Thank you very much and thank you so much for having us.
DR. MALKA	Deputy Minister you've served the country for many years and during the course of that time you've held various positions, can you share with us a few of the landmarks in your career and are there any specific milestones which you want to accomplish in this term of office.
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	I think if one went to parliament young so you could, as a young person you could really push and you know test the waters, post the boundaries that because age allowed you to do so, so yes we've done a lot, we've established a lot. I remember just starting on issues of women, we had the network on violence against women that was functioning, I chaired the parliamentary committee on youth, children and people with disabilities and that was an amazing experience; we've reviewed the plan of action on children and that set South Africa should begin the process of respecting the rights of children. We've you know produced the Integrated National Disability Strategy that led South Africa to be able to respect and uphold the rights of people with disabilities and there's a whole lot of other things that we did from ensuring that NSFAS can acknowledge the special needs students with disabilities have, to establishing disability rights units in every university, so there's quite a lot that one looks back and is very happy to have been part of it.
DR. MALKA	And that's the history which sounds like an incredible success story with lots of milestones in that track record. Moving forwards into the future, what's next?
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	For me what is important is integrated development. It is where you take time, invest energy and resources in a community and turn that community upside down, literally addressing every social ill in partnership with communities and that is the mission I am on now, following what the.....general releases as what we call the poverty, gender based violence, HIV/AIDS, MAP, using that and also the identification of the poorest municipalities in our country, one is going in there in partnership with the private sector and changing the lives of people. We have done that in Mbombela Local Municipality through Hlayisani Centre of Hope where we arrived with the dialogues, we engaged communities, we did household profiling and we started rolling out that which the community has requested and in two years we have done what we would have done in ten

	<p>years. So for me I'm focusing on integrated development because in it you are able to respond to the total aspect of a community, from raising awareness on under-aged drinking with young people, from making sure pregnant women don't abuse alcohol, from making sure that there is one nutritious meal a day for every older person, child headed households, computer labs. So all of these things are in the Integrated Development Strategy that I have adopted with my team that we are rolling out. We have started in the Ratlou Local Municipality, we will be going to Vreddefort, so we've started following the map where we are able to actually have a direct impact because I believe that when you do bits and pieces you actually take longer to have the impact but now when you put it all together, invest resources and when you leave that municipality it is able to be self-sustainable and people are able to be entrepreneurs, to get themselves jobs but also to sustain themselves through a whole lot of programmes that one is busy introducing. So the future for me is changing communities.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It sounds like a fantastic ecosystem initiative and as you've already articulated when you said that usually to do something like this with the success story from Mbombela was that it would take ten years to do, but from the integrated components it was delivered in two. Now the Department of Social Development is the custodian of social protection and some of the stories that you've just spoken to us about now really emphasise that. Many people know that the department oversees social assistance programmes with over 17 million South Africans receiving social grants, but the department also does extensive work through other programmes like early childhood development, tackling substance abuse, gender based violence, a food for all programme, HIV and Aids support, addressing people with disabilities and many others; can you tell us more about some of these other programmes?</p>
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	<p>I think I need to start to say to South Africans one of the most important programmes, given the high prevalence of violence against women and children, we've realised that we have a lot of good programmes and sometimes they are not known, so I think it's important that we make South Africans aware that you can access social development services through our 0800 428 428 or please call us on *120*7867#, we will call you, that is our command centre run by social workers, not call centre agents as normally, by qualified registered social workers 24 hours. So we're calling on South Africans to actually make use of that call, if you don't have airtime send the please call me, we will call you back to be able to partner with us, whether it's a woman that's abused, whether it's a child that does not have uniform when they go to school 'cause amongst the other programmes we distribute free uniforms to poor children but we can never know all of them so we're calling on the communities to partner with us, to bring them to our attention through the command centre, through any structure that is in the community and we will respond because when we came into the second term of this administration President Zuma was very clear that education is at the heart of South Africa's success and also we must provide school uniforms. We then went further in our other programmes that people like saying you are forever paying grants, so we are also empowering those women that are receiving grants, we're putting them into cooperatives; instead of us buying the uniform our uniforms are sewn by the very women that receive the grant as a way of exiting and towards the families sustainability because after 18 the grant won't be there. So they are being trained by our National Development Agency, they are getting the SABS approval and they are making the uniforms. So we register the cooperatives, we incubate them and after three years we hand them over to</p>

	the Department of Small Business because we would have done the teething problems that cooperatives usually go through.
DR. MALKA	And I suppose the success of the social grant system is in effect almost to reduce the number of grants that are being paid out because you're being able to empower people who have received those grants through initiatives like this and the cooperatives that they establish.
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	Exactly, that is working very well. We are now doing the Food For Waste Programme also where we put young people into cooperatives and educating the communities on how to look after their own environment and we do that by establishing tuck shops, that we call them swop shops, so you go and your currency is waste. So we're encouraging recycling as a way of instead of you...us giving you money, we give...you buy in a shop that which you need, so we are beginning to teach children on how to recycle because they keep the environment clean; we're getting women to work in the landfills and for every square meter of the landfills the agreement is that the municipality must give them the land they have cleared so that they can create their own food, we've done that, it's there and a lot of jobs have been created with that initiative. You've already spoken about early childhood development, I think what I want to add with South Africans must also know is we do have a problem of teenage pregnancy and everybody talks about keeping girls in school and what was missing was if that girl has the baby, for her to be back in school what and where is she going to leave that baby, so we've introduced baby rooms where the ECD's, our ECD's can begin to accept children from 10 days old so that we can try and get the young girl back in class as quickly as possible but also on contraceptives and we're beginning to utilise our ECD's for like a central point, where even talks on positive parenting because teenagers are children so it's a child that has a child so the cycle of a child that doesn't grow properly starts there, so we need to address that, so we run positive parenting classes using the ECD infrastructure in the community so that young girls can go and talk and they can be talked to and we can turn the ones that fell along the way, had babies, we use them as mentors and peer counsellors in the school education system so that they can share with the young girls that don't have children how painful it is to be a teenage mother.
DR.MALKA	But the reality is I don't think that in those situations that those pregnancies are planned and some of them can be from consenting relationships but a lot of them are not from consenting relationships and then I think that the girls feel more victimised because this has happened to them and it's not their fault.
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	That is very true, there is a lot of rape in this country and there is a lot of rape amongst the young girls, by their own you know boys of their own age but also men that are older than them and there is also a lot of young girls, out of frustration and poverty that find themselves in the streets as sex workers, so yes the cycle is a long one, but what I can say is that the department runs a victim empowerment programme. Our victim empowerment programme for the first time this year we've added perpetrators because I have always believed that nobody is born to be a rapist so we can't only deal with the one that has been raped and ignore the one that has raped because they both need help, so as the person that is responsible for the gender based violence programme politically because President Zuma has made sure we sign our performance contract, one is beginning to say women cannot do it without the man next to them so we have the command centre as the first intervention, we are now distributing the personal the alarms for women called the MeMeZa that are linked to our command centre, so that is also where we partner with the private

	<p>sector because we still don't have enough money to roll out the MeMeZa's so that women can protect themselves. We're also making sure that we are developing a register of perpetrators so that we develop a programme. We are now rolling out shelters for men; we do have shelters for women; three categories the first ones are the White Door Centres of Hope, those are everywhere in every community because that is in partnership with communities; if you have an extra bedroom or a house you are no longer using you are able to say can the department use this house and we turn it into a White Door Centre of Hope, that is where communities can run to for any....whether the woman is being chased or raped, that's the first point of entry. Then we've got the second level of our shelters which differ in security, the highest ones I think we've got 13 of those, those are for trafficked women. We know that South Africa has a challenge with drug mules and also with trafficking of ...internally and externally so when we rescue those that have been trafficked we take them to high security shelters, we've got 13 of those, because those that trafficked them would still pursue them for one reason or the other so we protect them and then the other shelters are shelters that are secured but not as secured as the trafficked ones, they are secured based on the assessment of the social worker. So your first entry will be the White Door Centre of Hope; maybe your husband has beaten you up, but if he's a violent man we will remove you there because in the White Door Centres of Hope women do other programmes and they are not excluded, like removed from the community but if it's danger we'll take you to the second level. But now we're also introducing shelters for men 'cause at the moment we only have one shelter for men based in Gauteng and as we engage with men as partners they are beginning...you are beginning to see...we had an outreach in Potchefstroom and one man stood up and said Deputy Minister I am angry and I have knocked at every door to ask for help and nobody wants to help me. When I learned you are coming I said I must present myself to you and tell you that I need help and that begins to say he's aware that he is hurting but how many men are hurting who don't having anywhere to go and the anger ends up they take it out on children, they take it out on women, so we've started developing a programme which is a register and working with men, so this year we will be rolling out additional shelters for men where men can go before they do anything that they would regret, where they would go if they have been abused also, but also where they can go to just get assistance of one thing or the other that's socially related.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Deputy Minister you weren't kidding when you said that the department has many programmes which are not getting adequate exposure and creating the awareness of what the department is doing and benefitting so many people in society; thank you very much for relaying some of them, I know that there's definitely more but we don't in the interests of time, have time to share all those. Globally women around the world tend to undertake most of the unpaid labour which is essential to sustaining households and economies whether it's cooking, cleaning, child rearing, subsistence farming, etc., and according to you and women, women tend to carry out two and a half times more unpaid housework and care work than men and as a result they've got less time to participate in the paid labour force or they tend to work longer hours because they're trying to accommodate the household things and still attend to their work commitments; how do you think we can promote a more equitable distribution of unpaid work between men and women in households?</p>
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	<p>I agree 100% with you and women and that is true we see it every day. The solution starts with us as women; how we raise our children. For me if we as women can change the way we raise the boys and start there and not</p>

	<p>create like you can go kick the ball while your sister is sweeping the floor, it has to start there. If we can start there and then you make your son understand that he is as responsible for housework as the sister is, then that boy would become a better partner and the house chores would be shared, but it's also about changing the dialogue. I'm a Motswana girl and I would say I'm lucky, my husband shares with me the house chores because the mother raised him like that and the mother used to tell him that you must...you guys must know how to do housework because she had five boys so they....</p>
DR. MALKA	...wow...
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	<p>...had to clean, they had to cook so I'm benefitting from that because I don't have the problem of cooking but what I have seen is his friends will say ahhh she dealt with you, you know, so you're now washing, doing washing, doing this, so that then starts to make him feel like less of a man so the important part is we also need to change the dialogues. When men meet they need to have different discussions and that starts with changing them from being ATM's, just sending the money to children or refusing to maintain or refusing to clean so but it's about how do we use men, progressive men to change the dialogues when men meet.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>The key take-out for me in the conversation so far goes back to that very first point that you raised about integrated development. We're talking now about having men's shelters, talking about having the perpetrators as well as the victims inclusion, talking now about starting off with kids right from the beginning going through with the early childhood development component, all about starting off right and getting everybody involved and almost co-creating solutions to benefit all stakeholders concerned.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Today we're talking to South Africa's Deputy Minister of Social Development, Henrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu.</p>
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DR. MALKA	<p>Today we're talking to South Africa's Deputy Minister of Social Development, Henrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter: @WomanityTalk.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Deputy Minister being a female political leader in Africa sometimes touches sensitive points; black culture, religion and tradition, in your experience do you think women leaders face different challenges to their male counterparts and are they judged differently?</p>
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	<p>Yes they are. They are, even if you are a woman holding a particular office that expectation that you must still clean up, you must still go raise the kids, you must do the homework is still there, it's not removed by the virtue that you are now having extra hours or you're holding that particular office, it doesn't....but it's also worse if you're young because then you are of childbearing age so you still need to go on your maternity leave and it is like you have that break. Whilst you are at home looking after the new born baby the world doesn't stop to wait for you so as young women in these high offices we are bound to play catch-up all the time. But also I've had experiences, personal experiences, well for me besides being a black woman I am also a disabled woman so the odds become even more added because at everywhere you go they first see your disability, then that you are a woman and then that you're black and then you have just to justify all three things all the time. So to manage that it's a question of I have what I call a board of directors, so those are women that have strength in different areas and their duty is to give me feedback that I don't want to hear so that they can grow me, mentor me, support me but also so that I can know that I have the support, I'm still on the right road or am I going off the road and</p>

	<p>also when I get overwhelmed because what we don't realise is that for women in politics for an example, the level of depression is very high because there's a lot expected from you, but also the support isn't there, the higher you go the lonelier it gets, so you need to make effort to stay grounded, sometimes we don't, we get carried away. So my grandmother was one of the wise women who said to me as you go up create for yourself a board of directors, create your own board, make sure you don't lose touch with certain women that you respect them or aspire to be like them for one reason or the other, they'll keep you grounded and that's what I do, so I convene my board of directors, at least once in six months we have a girls day out but now I've started to add boys onto my board of directors also because I'm able to ask them questions that the girls would not have answers for and I'm also able to bounce certain ideas and they are also able to teach me how men think, that way I navigate the journey and make it lighter.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I haven't come across something like this in terms of establishing a personal board of directors but I think it's a wonderful, wonderful idea which has clearly helped you in your...in the work that you do and all the endeavours and having that diversity and having a trusted environment so that things are always improving. Now turning more towards a bit of a personal perspective; you've championed various groundbreaking initiatives in relation to HIV and AIDS; you were chairperson of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Advisory Group on HIV and AIDS; the UN AIDS Review Committee as well as the Co-Chair of the UN Agenda for Women and Girls on HIV and AIDS and I read recently that in South Africa there's an estimation of over seven million people living with HIV and more concerning for me was that 60% of them are women; what efforts are under way to stop the rising HIV rates amongst girls and women?</p>
DM BOGOPANE-ZULU	<p>We have a lot of problems, it's true that we are making progress in bringing the prevalence of HIV down but we are not winning when it comes to young girls from 15 to 24, that is where the problem is and the sad part is that the problem is there and when you match it with the boys it's a totally different story which then says to you the girls are not infected by their peers because the same age of boys the prevalence is very, very low. There's a lot that is happening, the first we have for an example, the Zazi Programme that tries to assist young girls to reinforce their own value system and their own cultural and religious value system that says who am I so that once you understand who you are, you are able to take a stand. The other programme is First things First which a lot of the challenges that we are picking up is when young girls leave home for the first time to go to universities, as a first year student experiencing that freedom out, no mother that's going to tell you what to do, it's where we also get a lot of our new infections and a whole lot of one night stands and sex without condoms, so that programme we have gone on a road show to actually request every university to have that programme First Things First for first year students that deals with all the challenges from drugs to alcohol, everything that is of a social nature that would lead them to being HIV positive. But also the minister of health has launched the Prevention Programme, a tablet so that when our girls are tested and they test negative there's this one tablet that we will make sure that they swallow to stay negative, that they never become positive. So that is being rolling out and we have also been trying to use our ECD centres to assist girls to collect that just to clear them from the clinic healthcare system so that they are able to use that. Then you have the She Conquers Programme where young girls are being assisted to conquer all the different challenges from their ability to protect themselves as and when they are attacked, either through rape, like self-protection, they are</p>

	able to resist the older men, they are able to use contraceptives and condoms together and also as social development we are responsible for the prevention aspect of HIV so we are rolling out a lot of programmes that are community based to assist us to intervene community by community, ward by ward in partnership with our ward committees and our ward counsellors. So we do door to door household profiling which is supported by also testing and counselling so that we can know that there is HIV positive people in this house and how do we utilise them in the community to actually begin to bring the prevalence down. So we are struggling with young women, there's a lot of money invested in young women and we think we need to do more.
DR. MALKA	It seems that you are passionate about making a difference in people's lives and facilitating really supportive environments to help them to help themselves and be empowered; what motivates you?
DM BOGOPANE- ZULU	My own life journey motivates me, you know, born totally blind, going to a school for the blind in a rural village and everybody's telling you you're never going to be good enough, you're never you know, you're never...you can't and that's the only language you'll hear, you can't do this, you can't do that. I think one developed a resilience and when everybody said you can't you lived to say I can and every day when they say you can't do this you say I can and as you succeed and conquer and push the barriers you then realise that let my own journey begin to tell the story, so...but also I need to say I think I was born with a strong spirit, that I think resilience is one of the gifts my grandmother gave me as somebody that raised me but also growing up being taught to fear God and to always do the right thing even if nobody is watching. So that informs how I behave even in my political career, every day I want go to bed and account to myself because if I don't I feel like I'm stealing from the poor, you know if I can't account for what I did, when I get paid at the end of the month I'll be like I stole ten days, I can't account what is it that I have done and that is it what drives me but also I am just a community worker at heart that is what gives me the energy, the passion is when I see something, when I see those smiles of the lives I touch, when I get those "well done", it says to me go out there and do more.
DR. MALKA	Positive feedback, reinforcement and it just contributes and enriches, a continuous pay it forward. One of the questions that I ask all my guests on this programme who've made tremendous achievements in their respective fields of expertise is about the factors that have contributed to their success; you've already mentioned resilience as being one of the key motivators and an "I can" attitude; what in your opinion have been some of the other key drivers to your success?
DM BOGOPANE- ZULU	The love for people is where it all starts in my view. I have always loved social work, not social worker the profession but engaging people socially in their small spaces, but because of my disability also I've always understood that the person is not the problem, the barriers are the environment. So all my life I have invested time to changing the environment rather than investing time to changing the person because I understood with myself that when my environment changed, when I get my brail documents, when I get my large print that influences the way I behave so I invest time changing the environment because when the environment is changed the people automatically respond, but if you invest time in trying to change a person and then that....then you're like dragging the horse to the water and expect that it will drink, rather create the river and then you will see that the horse will voluntarily go and drink and that for me is how I approach problems.

	<p>But the other part of my success I think I have lived through what I am and I can talk about rape because I was raped so it's easy for me to relate and to say look, you know, you can't allow somebody to steal your everything just because they raped you, so you know, get over...you know get over it and be able to put a woman together and get a move on with it, they already stole, don't let them steal your whole life you know. So it's my own personal life but also my board of directors are amazing because they are always there to argue among themselves but also to give me feedback, negative, positive, whatever, but they are there to uphold me. So the you are because we are has worked a lot for me, the understanding that I need people to walk the journey with me and that for me I think is the biggest secret is that I understood I can never do it on my own. The day I understood that I think it's the day I gained my wisdom and I started realising that if I really, really, really want to get to where I want to I'll need a lot of people that will journey with me to get me to where I want to go.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I find that very, very inspiring of using...creating the support structure and then using that as an aid for progress. What would you say has had the biggest impact on you to make you the person that you are today?</p>
DM BOGOPANE- ZULU	<p>Firstly I think my belief system; I'm a very staunch Christian. I think the knowing, you know, knowing God and investing hours in striving to be like Christ every day keeps me going, that spiritual strength is what I need but also the desire to succeed and create a legacy that I would want to be remembered for and that is also the strength my grandmother always said is you need to write your own obituary, she would say that to us, that never forget that every day you are writing your obituary so write it so that people can say what you want them to say the day that you leave. So every single day when you wake up thank God first and foremost for that day, but be conscious that you are writing your obituary and that is what she used to tell us every night, so it got stuck in my head and every day I will remember that I am writing my obituary by my behaviour and I must remember this that I'm doing, it's how people will remember me so I every day I decide how I want to be remembered and my grandmother made sure of it.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>She sounded like a very wise woman. Now lastly Deputy Minister we're coming to the end of our show today, can you please share a few words of inspiration which you'd like to pass onto women in Africa who are listening to us?</p>
DM BOGOPANE- ZULU	<p>First and foremost is that women must value their self-worth. You are worth a lot, it doesn't matter how poor you are but by virtue of being a woman you are worth a lot, to your country, to your community, to your family. Secondly it's important that without women no country can stand so women need to understand their power that they have, not power that power that they are born with, let's use that power positively not negatively because as women we are seen as we pull each other down, let's push each other up and use the inner strength and the power that we are born with to actually create a better Africa and an Africa we all want to live in.</p>
DR.MALKA	<p>I think that's a wonderful message of using the power from within to connect with everybody else and lift them up. Thank you so much for joining us today.</p>
DM BOGOPANE- ZULU	<p>Thank you for having us.</p>
<p>PROGRAMME END</p>	