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GUEST NAME: MS STELLA TEMBISA NDABENI-ABRAHAMS -DEPUTY MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES

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 studio today in Johannesburg is South Africa's Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services; Ms Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abrahams. She previously served as the Deputy Minister of the Department of Communications from 2014 to 2017; she has been a member of several portfolio committees including communication and defence and has been a member of parliament since 2009. Welcome to the show!
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	Thank you Dr. Malka and yes of course allow me to pass greetings to the listeners wherever they are.
DR. MALKA	We are very happy that you have taken some time out of your busy schedule to join us today and to begin with I'd like to ask, you served South Africa for many years with a strong focus in the information, technology, communications domain, which let's face it, is a significant portfolio in today's digital age; can you share with us a few of the landmarks in your career and if there are any specific milestones that you want to achieve in the role?
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	Well Dr. Malka the first thing is that when I got appointed in 2011, that was for the first time, the department then was a single department not like now we've separated Department of Communications and Department of Telecommunications; the first thing when I came on board, very interesting, I was young, fresh, I but the first thing that I realised of course because of my background, I'm a village girl was the fact that you know we have not managed to reach out to those poor disadvantaged young girls in the villages...
DR. MALKA	...rural communities...
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...yes the rural communities, so when we looked into the obligations that were supposed to be implemented by the mobile operators I identified a gap and one of those obligations was the fact that the mobile operators must connected about 1,500 schools to provide internet, but the gap in that was that there was no technology except the connectivity. So I said how are they going to access this internet because you just put a dongle there and then they don't have phones, they don't have laptops, so that was the first gap so we had to work towards that, I had to...I remember I spent my first six months engaging with them until they agreed that they must provide the total package, that tablet or that laptop with educational content now so I had to meet different stakeholders to say how do you make sure that we bridge that digital divide that is between the rural committees and the other. That was the first thing; I got so excited because I thought wow, I managed to do something that people every time they talking about they'll be thinking about Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams...
DR. MALKA	...and it matters and it provides a full service solution, not a piece where someone else...

DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...not a piece, ja....
DR. MALKA	...has to try to figure it out...
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...that was it...so of course as I said the sector is very challenging because especially when we came in it was so male dominant, I don't want to talk about black Africans of course because it has always been minority dominated, you know just male dominated, so the minute you come in there; you know how males are at times, they never take us seriously, because also as females at times we doubt ourselves. When you are appointed a deputy minister or into whatever position as a woman, the first thing people raise; does she have capacity? Don't ask me where males buy capacity from because we go to the same schools, we do the same things, but when it's a woman people tend to doubt capacity. So I had that challenge; I'm a woman, I'm young, I'm black in their sight, so I had to make sure that while they're busy focusing on my looks I'll work on the content. What is it that they must listen to, because I had to understand their story in order for me to make my own story so that I got lots of people...fortunately I received lots of support, including from parliament. I remember the chairperson of the portfolio committee then was Eric Kolwane who was very supportive because he has been into communications before me, although he was on the parliamentary side. When I came to the department I was like I want people to teach me, I'm here to learn, I'm not an expert in the field. That's when I decided to enrol with Wits to say how do we empower ourselves because I cannot be able to provide oversight on something that I don't know of. I wanted to make sure by the time they come and give me an advice at least I have a clue. So of course as I said I received a lot of support in the industry; as from then we went to elections in 2014, I had to abandon that department because now there was a split, so I went to the Department of Communications which currently deals with broadcasting, as you know, and print media, so I went to that side in government communications.
DR. MALKA	So it was almost...one was the infrastructure space and the other is the content environment.
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	Yes right now, currently that's what is happening. But even when you go to the Department of Communications, as you know, those things are interlinked.
DR. MALKA	Of course we're using the same infrastructure...
DM ABRAHAMS	...because my people couldn't get communication if there's no platform...
DR. MALKA	...exactly....
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...so I had to remain within the sector; I had to keep on explaining to people but yes, although we are focusing on this, but also this is important, which was also something that now gave me a focus on the challenges on the broadcasting side, not just now the infrastructure side but on the broadcasting side, the regulations that are there, the licenses that we issue, we also managed to at least to introduce a concept document on support for committee broadcasters; what is it that we give support because it's not enough to just give you equipment, give you licence and we think you will be the best in the industry. As much as we have the passion there are other elements because as like I said; how are you going to sustain that in all those, so it taught me a lot. Going to the print media, again, it came with its own dynamics being in the new era of democracy, this is how we expect things, this is how others understand they must work. Without us as government wanting to take control but just to say I always told the

	<p>industry when I met with them, we don't expect you to take out anything or to sugar coat, we expect you to tell the stories as they are, but the example I used to make was that it can never be correct that you only report that my department there was corruption, 700,000 corruption whereas we did not tell people that when I went to the budget vote, I made a commitment that we're going to support 50 small businesses with 700,000 and then in the process of implementing that somebody became corrupt, so you're just taking the last end of it without giving proper information, so that's one thing that we used to argue about which I understand you have to chase your scoops, but give people information, that's why we exist...</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>...it's the truth and if you think this is why we're in this era of fake news, where things have been taken out of context, it spreads disproportionately and the wrong message is spreading.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>...and received, yes, and we're busy talking about that, on that note of the fake news boards.....dominantly you find that on the digital communication, so there was the emergence of social media, people getting news.....which is what I refer to as the drive-through recipe whereby you can't even check, you know, when you're ordering your food from McDonalds at the drive-through, you just tell this is what I want and they give you the package, you check it at home or on the way when you're eating, you don't check it instantly. Therefore if somebody posts something you take it as is, you don't know if it's true or not, so those were the things that we have to be careful about that as reporters because you'll discover that even broadcasters and print media they just take those from Twitter, somebody posts this and therefore it becomes a headline without verifying. Now the dangers that pose to the society because at times you find that no,no, no that's a gossip paper, I can't listen to them. So those were the things I'm saying how do we make sure that those communication practitioners are trained even in this digital environment for them to understand the importance of ethics and that. But that was a challenging environment; it still is as I said earlier...</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>...and it's still new...</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>...it's still new, it's going to take a lot of time of course, but the one thing that I like Doc is the fact that at least this government we are determined that the only way for us to be able to survive and use the digital set-up that is...we are upon is when we skill our people...</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>...yes....</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>...and we get to talk to each other.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And on the skills note, how do we ensure that women won't get left behind in this technology, economic revolution, particularly as the 4th Industrial Revolution is coming through and as you said, you can't apply 19th century practices to a 21st century world, we require new skills, new demands, new functions.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>One of the things that we had to do was to make sure that we forge partnerships first, with women's organisations. There's the women's sector in terms of the South African Communications Forum but we also reach out to those that are outside that forum, we introduced a programme; in the department we have a branch that is dealing with women and youth issues in terms of technology, so we introduced a programme whereby we empower the girl child to say go there, be a work developer, be a programmer, because most people they tend to think these things are meant for males, so the only way to do that is to expose them to that. So we identified a group of girls in different schools to say okay we're</p>

	going to partner with different organisations in ensuring that you get to be exposed to the information but you get to do the work so that we can see what is it that we're capable of. Because one of the mistakes that we make is to tend to think that career guidance can only be affectively achieved when you start grade 12; it doesn't work like that. You've got to make sure that if they are in grade 8, you are there to guide them because that's where the subject combination choices are made. So if you are certain that I want to build women in this sector, you've got to start them at that root.
DR. MALKA	And when you consider, I...you know, I think that from a tech point of view, this is another language and for people to become proficient in a language they need to start young.
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	Definitely. In the Free State, together with SETA, our state owned entity, we had to say because even through those years we have not been co-ordinating each other, we were like you know this thing of the story of hit and run, you train them and you leave them, you don't make follow-up, you don't know if they are channelled through or you just give bursaries but you don't follow-up, we said let's make sure. We identified particular schools, we established a centre there which helped them with mathematics or those that are in maths lit, we see how they become the best in maths lit, to build them we shape them and then we give bursaries to tertiary. In tertiary these are the subjects that they take, your computer science, your engineering and all that and after that we take them to our incubation centre, come and do what you want to do because as you said we are in the era of the 4 th Industrial Revolution which is nothing else except software development. So we've got to make sure that our people have that capacity to develop software that will respond to these machines that will be taking over our jobs because it is a threat also that now we're talking of the 4 th Industrial Revolution, these robots will be taking over our jobs, but if we have skilled our people there's no way the robots will take over our jobs.
DR. MALKA	Well I see it as maybe the robots will take over some jobs but maybe those are jobs we don't need to do, but there are a whole host of new opportunities that have come out of this environment that we haven't previously even considered, that if we've got the right skills in place, that when these opportunities arise, people can take advantage of them.
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	We also looked into that, so inspired by that that you've just said, we then committed that you know what, we want to build an army for the 4 th Industrial Revolution, we're going to train about 1,000,000 people in South Africa between 2019 to 2030; that's the target that now you find us going throughout the country, outside South Africa, to say how do we partner with those people that are already there, the likes of facebook, google, because it is them that require these skills and like I said, because if we are to build a capable army that must respond to the challenges, the ones that we're talking about people being replaced, it is an army that must have an understanding that I don't need to be employed; I'm going to make myself useful but it doesn't matter where you are situated; you are in America, you are in Europe, you are going to need my skill if you want to do business in Africa. As we talk about that, then we had to say we have SADC as the region, we have Africa as the continent, how do we then work together through those inter-ministerial platforms who are a chair now in SADC, we're busy criss-crossing the country lobbying for Zimbabwe to be in the bureau, we're being contested of course, but one thing that we add, all our people in Africa is the fact that we've got to unite as Africans. We've got to be able to say this is what we want for us because right now there's still challenges, we find ourselves contesting each other even in the global

	<p>platforms. You'll find South Africa is contesting for this position, Nigeria will come on the other side so now it divides what we want to achieve as Africa, which is something we are hoping that is Africa will be able to, as the time goes, we will be able to overcome because everybody sees a market in Africa Dr. Malka. This is the mine, it doesn't matter it's Chinese that areall of them want to come here, now if we are not ready to work together as Africans, we're going to miss out, we're going to be colonised again. They're going to deploy their resources together with their personnel and all we will be doing is to continue being consumers as we have been.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>You are completely, completely right. I have to ask; how...what kind of steps are in place to build this army?</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>We have started by ensuring first within the region, SADC, is to say how do we make sure that the roaming costs are reduced or taken off completely, so had our regulators who are working on that; roaming must be taken off but also the issue of making sure that when I come from Zimbabwe, coming from...going to South Africathose travel, you know, all those stringent processes, they must be eased because we need to be able to trade amongst each other freely without all those unnecessary tariffs and all those, but crucial to that, let's bring skills. As I'm talking to you I was so impressed when I went to the Silicon Valley, we visited the World Economic Forum, the 4th Industrial Revolution Council that they've.....that they've established there because you know the president has announced that as South Africa we're also going to establish our own commission, the 4th Industrial Revolution, so we want to learn from other countries. We found Rwandan's already there, right now Rwandan's are the ones that are leading in the manufacturing of drones in Africa and those other countries are coming because they just see that as the base for them to make money. They are there to say how can we work together with those that are advanced in policy making because whether we like it or not, the Americans they are leading in the technology and innovation, that's why you find most companies have been birthed in the Silicon Valley and therefore they get it.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And it almost becomes this nucleus where everything is fostered and everything grows, so if we can establish a centre like that then we can sprout those opportunities and make them home grown.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>That's what we're working on, so we found that when we went there was like why must we meet in America? Why didn't we interact at home so that we jointly say this is what you are good at, this is what I'm good at and therefore when we come, we come as Africa so that they can respect us because now they...you know at times we play politics as politicians, they would want to use these divisions; the fact that we're not talking to other and introduce the story of Rwanda to yourselves for their own benefit, but nevertheless like I said those are politics, but the crucial matter is that if you do realise that Rwandan's are good at that and you have Kenyans on the other side who are coming here, you have the Nigerians who are very good also, they flock us in more on skilling. They're trying to overcome South Africa, I'm just saying South Africa 'cause we are in Africa, they're trying to make sure that they are leading, then what's holding us as the rest of the country to say I have this capacity in Zambia, therefore we can work together, provide 100 people in this sector, let's see who has resources, let's see who has those centres that can provide the skilling and then we work jointly to provide the skilling element to our people of the continent and once we do that it doesn't matter who comes to invest in our countries</p>

	<p>because they will all come for investment but they will be forced to utilise our people, not just in terms of them being their workforce, but the innovation and the ideas to drive the agenda of those companies in the African manner. Those are the things that we are saying that army that we are building has to respond to. So like I said we met groups of companies who are willing, fortunately, they are willing to work with us so ours is to say how do we then go around, identify, identify and then we take them to be trained so that they can come back and plough.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I think it is a wonderful, wonderful initiative and I wish you every success in building that army for advancing Africa as a continental wide strategy and also at the same time helping to empower the people who are currently underserved and are really experiencing a lack of being able to participate in the economy at scale.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>Thank you Dr. Malka, of course with your support, because you help us reach out to other people and it is only when people hear our stories that they are able to take interest and be able to invest.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And to be frank although we're sitting here in Johannesburg our broadcast is through Channel Africa going into the continent.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>...Africa...yes, yes.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Today we're talking to South Africa's Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Mrs. Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abrahams. We would love to receive your comments on Twitter:@WomanityTalk and additionally the Deputy Minister's twitter handle is @Stellarated.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Deputy Minister, now turning towards more of a personal perspective, one of the things that I find very important to advancing women is about establishing female leadership. It's important to the future of women, it's important to our countries and continents from a role modelling point of view, a perspective of being able to understand what women's needs are and being able to identify them and one of the things that I must say before we continue into that question which has struck me with our female leaders such as yourself in parliament is this holistic view of things of not going "we need internet" so if we get internet great, but how do we access the content, what are the devices, so your perspective is very, very holistic and thinking of the full solution. So to go back to the question, Malawi and Liberia are two countries in Africa's recent history to have had a female president; how do you see female leadership in the continent and do you think more countries are ready for a woman president?</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>There is no country that is not ready for a female president. There's one thing that I always tell the people.....that women by birth are born leaders. The role that we play at home definitely tells you, the fact that as a young girl in Africa, at the age of 18 you can get married to a 35 year old and you guide him, you feed him, you show him how to build a home; that's leadership on its own. All we are now advancing is to say well how do we build on that experience that we have and that leadership we are born with as a woman to make sure that we get exposure, you get to be empowered to be relevant in the different sectors that we have because whether we like it or not, the world is moving in a way that needs people who are capable in terms of qualifications, but not just qualifications without knowledge, we're trying to build that knowledge economy whereby people must have information on the tips of their fingers. The only way for women to succeed therefore is when they make themselves relevant; I always say you must always strive to be the beacon of hope wherever you are. They must know even if you are not going to solve their challenge but will provide</p>

	<p>information that will help them to be able to overcome the challenge that they are facing and the only way to do that is empower yourself with education. If and when you have started - I always make this example – the degree that you received in 2015 is no longer relevant in 2018; things change like that. So even if you went to school, you are a doctor of this industry, but you keep on engaging with the ratings of every day the things that are relevant to your sector so that you know that you are updated at all times. Right now as women saying that we are driving the 4th Industrial Revolution, what will our skills that we have as women provide to show leadership that, like I said, from birth, when we are born we have to take care of our families, how do we make sure that we bring that to the work environment in order to make sure that everybody feels comfortable like we do in our homes and the only way is when we have women networking platforms whereby we work together as women, to support each other, not to compete against each other because that's another challenge because that's how this society has taught us to say I'm good, I'm better because I have this degree in my village, I'm the only thing that is happening instead of saying if I went to school and then I know that I am a teacher, I do need a doctor by the way because my children are going to be sick, I do need somebody to provide for that agricultural person. How do we make sure that all the skills that we have by birth, as I said, we then work towards ensuring that because I won't be a master of everything, I need others; how do I network with the right people to shape me because when I interact with you and interact with another person with another skill, it helps me, it broadens my thinking and therefore when it broadens my thinking I am able to be innovative in my own area to say oh, we are talking of these machines so these children that are busy with computers, they're busy on coding, they don't like talking to each other; how do I introduce the human element on it. Definitely you need somebody who has studied whatever psychology on anything that is related to that, linking all these developments that are happening with the relevant education and information that is out there. So for me education and networking, but beyond that, the will to learn, because you might have all the right people around you but if you think you're the best, I know it all, you can't learn anything, you won't improve and you won't gain more knowledge in what you want to achieve.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>In this segment of the conversation you've spoken a lot about education and on this programme we are avid supporters of education as being a key tool to empower women to advance and achieve success. You are currently enrolled for a masters in ICT Policy Regulation Management at Wits University; you hold a Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation Diploma in Telecommunications and Management Systems; a certificate in Communications Policy in Regulation Management; an advanced certificate in Programme Management; all of this as key skills to contribute to your development, as I said education is a skill, it's a resource which helps women's empowerment and the betterment of their lives and their families; how has education impacted on your life?</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>To start with Doc, when I grew up I came from a very poor family, I couldn't have money to go to tertiary so of course after matric the only thing I had to do was to get to volunteer for the ANC; I've got to be involved in school governing bodies but that helped me because as I said, if I'm involved in school committees, if I'm involved in school governing bodies I get to learn how the education sector functions, that's the person I am. So it is true that education that I have not formally gone to attend, that I've managed to get more information that has shaped me. The minute I</p>

	<p>got my first job, I was an administrator, so the first thing I did was like sjoe, there are other people here, they are earning more than me and all that and I make sure that I learn what they are doing. My IT guy used to laugh at the fact that I will be like if you have done it, if you have done a design, I'm not going to sleep, I'm going to do it today although I've not studied graphic design but it taught me one thing that you might have the know-how at times because there are people you learning by doing but you do need those that must then shape your thinking, the theories that are applied, the methodology of how to make sure that you get yourself a proper or a quality product of what you want to do. So that's why I had to be inspired in terms of programme management. One thing that I liked about it, I always tell my officials in the department in the office, if you are employed as an administrator it doesn't mean that you must die an administrator; take interest in learning everything and that's what project management and project management teach you, because it doesn't matter if you're going to have a builder, a finance, you are responsible for the overall project, you've got to have an understanding of what happens. So I think it also helped me, I had my boss who also shaped me; Mr. Andrew Marais who advised me to go for that, it was Andrew Marais andwhom I was colleagues withso they helped me to go for that one and it really helped me. Of course after that now you come to parliament because now when I left my organisation I was already a project manager, I am able to interact with policy makers, with people who do work on the ground, with those that want to do work, so that I am able to come up with a proper product. So as I go to parliament I come, shew, how do I make a law, but the good thing is that because as I said, I'm this curious person by nature, I want to I know everything. If I go Ray or Kay who is the presenter and the...I'm curious, I'm curious, I want to know a lot. So the minute I go there the first thing I had to...was to make sure that I go to these old people because I went to defence, I'm like I've never been a soldier they must tell me how it's done and therefore the challenge that I I'm there....so that's how I learn and I was like even when I got that knowledge, when I went to communications I was like I've got to get the academic understanding because things are done in a systematic way. You can be good but you don't understand how the system works, that knowledge does not help. So for me education is very crucial into growing effective leadership, not just leadership, but effective one because like I said as we are leaders in different sectors and all that, you must have that legacy, not that because it's the youth month but you must always strive to make sure that by the time you left that organisation everybody gets to fill the gap that indeed you made your mark. So it helps to be able to fit in, it helps you to think broadly, like I said earlier, so for me education is a key driver.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And if I look at your story, you said that you grew up in a village, poverty, you have now in your 41 year journey become, well you became Deputy Minister several years ago but you are right at the top in terms of this transition of moving from one area of your life through to another and it really demonstrates that it doesn't matter where you start out, that if you've got the mindset, the willpower, the support, you truly can be whatever you want to be.</p>
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	<p>That's true Doctor, you don't have to be big to be the best.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And don't put limitations.</p>

DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	You can't.
DR. MALKA	So next what I'd like to ask you and it's a question that I ask all my guests on the show who have achieved tremendous success in their various fields of work, industry, government, academia, whatever it may be, and that is about some of the factors that they consider have contributed to their success. So some people speak about perseverance, hard work, a particular person in their life; could you share with us what you think have been some of the key drivers to your success?
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	The support that I got from people is one thing that helped me. Of course God because I'm this person that always says there's nothing I can't do as long as I am with God, I'm a Christian believer so it helps me even when I come across challenges in my area of work I'm like hey, hey, hey you're not going to succeed, so it helps me to come up with things on how to overcome the challenges. The third one like I said, I'm a very curious person by nature but you can be curious but if when you knock on the people's doors to help you, you don't get that information and knowledge, then still your curiosity doesn't assist. So it has been the support structure that has been there, like I said even when I started working as I made an example in my organisation, the communities that I work with in a village a child belongs to everyone, that support that at least one thing that God blessed me with is the ability to be able to communicate with a young person there and an old person up there and they still feel comfortable. You know I remember at some point when President Mbeki was still president, so we were preparing for this even that he was coming to, so I was still in the Youth League, I get invited by theof the ANC to be part and all the old people were like no, no you can't undermine us and all that but because of the efforts that we put and those that are in leadership that see the need to groom young people...
DR. MALKA	...of course it's a succession plan...
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...thatwas like no those are the people that I'm going to be with. So when President Mbeki came he was confused himself because normally he mixes with old people but then from that it gives you confidence. I sat with this leader, I'm able to interact and it boosts your confidence, that's why I am saying that ability to be able to talk to anyone at any time, that ability that says that okay I'm going to express my voice because that's another thing you can have all these things but if you do not know how to express yourself then you are not going to win. That that says it doesn't matter if the majority does it, but if I don't believe in it, if I don't see that it is right, I've got to make sure that this is wrong, if you want to remove me in your position, do so. That's one of the things, being me without the position because one of the things that is a challenge is when we get to wear these positions, I'm a deputy minister therefore this is how people must see me; I'm a deputy minister therefore if the president says this and then it goes, I'm a peace spokesperson in the Eastern Cape therefore if the chairperson says this it goes; without you making your own voice. Even if you say this Mr. President don't you think if we take this approach it will help us...help the country to take this...I'm that kind of a person...
DR. MALKA	...it's contributing to value as opposed to just being a puppet
DM NDABENI-ABRAHAMS	...that's what I always say. So it's one thing that I've been given, that opportunity to express myself it has helped me grow because if you are not given an opportunity...because also like I said, it depends on the people you interact with, will they be willing to listen to you, because if they don't give you that space you don't have that opportunity, so it is that support that

	even when you meet a hostile environment you're like, eh, it's fineso it's that that has helped me become the better person that I think I am. I always tell people you think I'm not better, but where I come from I am a better person.
DR. MALKA	And have there been any strong women in your life?
DM ABRAHAMS	Definitely. There's this women that I admire, every time I see a conference or a seminar she's invited to I'm like I'm going to confirm if I'm invited, I try to find ways; Mam Phumzile Xo.....has been one of the role models but fortunately when I was growing up when I was.....I had Mrs. Nomsata.....who was a very strict person everybody was scared of, she was a sharp politician who understood content and all that and people couldn't understand how I relate with her because everybody wanted to go away from her and I was the only one that understood how she does things, so she has helped me grow. You see, you're going to go there, make sure you don't embarrass us, you must know your game, you're not going to embarrass me because you'll be associated with me....that has helped me to say when I step out of my house I'm not representing myself, I'm representing my family first. So anything that I do at workplace reflects on my family, anything that I do outside workplace I represent South Africa and the ANC, so at all times I must strive to make sure that I excel in what I do so that they take pride in me.
DR. MALKA	And have there been any significant moments in your life growing up that you can share with us; that shaped you into becoming who you are today?
DM NDABENI- ABRAHAMS	Shew, there has been lots of those; like I said I come from a poor village. I always brag about the fact that I come from the same village like Nelson Mandela, so I will tell people after him, I'm the first person that got elected to the National Working Committee of the Youth League, that was a milestone because it just didn't happen to anyone then and after that you go to parliament at my age, it didn't happen, that was a huge milestone to say wow, South Africans and people of the ANC have that confidence in me that I can go and represent them there but most importantly, when you are able to assist a child that was poor like you and then she calls you to say thank you sis, now I graduated on my honours, I'm like wow! So now, as I grow, because of my background, I've made it my responsibility to assist where I can assist. Okay come guys, let's look up, because I don't have money, I knock on their doors and all that, but that story about they finish because most girls they do not get to go to the finishing end so it makes me a proud mother, I have...in my fleet I have produced two now that already....it's something that I brag about, I tell my children if you don't want to go to school there are children that can confess that I did something good out of their lives.
DR. MALKA	Taking them to the finishing line and that must...you must feel so proud.
DM NDABENI- ABRAHAMS	But the last one Doc, is when I got an invite to the Oxford Institute for Internet, they normally identify 30 international leaders to go for a particularand this year I made it.
DR. MALKA	Oh congratulations!
DM NDABENI- ABRAHAMS	...so I was like thank you God! Thank you sis, thank you. So it's something because as I said I believe in learning so I'll be exposed to other that they.....and I will be learning and come and use that experience and that learning for the year here and at home..
DR. MALKA	...and feeding it back into our market, that'll be fantastic. Now lastly, we are unfortunately running out of time, can I please ask you as we close out the conversation today to share a few words of wisdom, inspiration, particularly in

	this youth month for our young ladies that are listening to us on the continent?
DM NDABENI- ABRAHAMS	All I can say is young sisters, young ladies wherever you are you just know that you are the leader, you just know that you are a winner, just know one thing that in your veins runs the blood that ran through Winnie Mandela's and Nelson Mandela's veins. You are a conqueror whatever challenge, go out there and make sure that you seek support from other people, talk to us, Dr. Malka has already told you we are on twitter or on facebook, make sure you reach out if you feel like I'm in a situation that I can't get myself out of. There is nothing that you can't defeat, but most importantly, make sure that you remain the best wherever you are, it doesn't matter if you are a cleaner, make sure that if you didn't come to clean they will be asking and wondering where you are because they feel it in their offices. Never strive for things that you think you can't reach, make sure everything is within your reach, being within your reach is that you will learn about anything and everything. Like I said earlier you don't have to be big to be the best, be the legacy that you want to be. They walked the path, they died, they got into prison for us but here we are, we don't have to go to jail, all we have to do is to build on the work that they started for us and the only way like I said, empower yourself with knowledge and information. Everywhere, you can go my post office, you can go to the internet if you want websites, you can go everywhere there is information and like I said as the ANC government we are here to assist all.
DR.MALKA	Thank you so much for that wonderfully uplifting, inspiring message of being the legacy that you can be. It was a real pleasure having you on our show today and we wish you every success in the next leg of your journey, thank you for joining us.
DM NDABENI- ABRAHAMS	Thank you so much Doctor and thank you to the listeners, wherever you are.
PROGRAMME END	