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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: ANGEL KHANYILE – DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE – MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPTION
DR. MALKA	Hello, I'm Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to 'Womanity – Women in Unity'. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women's milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Joining us on the line today is Miss Angel Khanyile, who is from the Democratic Alliance and is a member of parliament. She is currently serving in the National Assembly on the portfolio committee of Home Affairs and she also sits on the African Parliamentary Association for the Human Rights Steering Committee. She joins us today in our series covering perspectives from woman across different political parties in the country. Welcome to the show.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Thank you so much. Good afternoon Dr Amaleya and greetings to your listeners and thank you for having me on your show.
DR. MALKA	It's a pleasure to host you. And to begin with South Africa is a multi-party democracy. Currently parliament's National Assembly consists of 14 political parties. Parliament even has a specific committee representing woman from different political parties called the Multi-Party Woman Caucus. One of the issues it address is gender responsive planning, budgetary framework. At the end of August there was also a special woman's parliament which was convened under the theme "Gender and Institutionalism: towards strengthening the national gender machinery" as a response to addressing gender based violence in South Africa, which included a 25 year review of the Woman's Charter for Effective Equality. In your opinion how do you consider these types of platforms will address women's agendas in South Africa?
ANGEL KHANYILE	Umm, thank you so much for your question. I think these types of platforms are necessary as they can help us find solutions to gender based violence. In the meeting that was held recently, it was discovered that the implementation of resolution that was in the affirmation caucus was tackling the issues related to gender based violence. Amongst other issues that we discussed was that parliament need to have a 5 year plan responding to issues of gender based violence and insure that budgets are on hand for gender based violence and that oversight is conducted on other government departments to check that the departments are implementing what they are committed to do in their reports with regards to woman incapacitation when it comes to issues of skill. Also conducting an oversight, which was one of the important roles in the police station to ensure that rape kits are always in stock and that all cases that are reported are actually investigated and that they make it to the courts.
DR. MALKA	So we are looking at one where we are taking more conscious action and rather than just having cases arise but being able to get the follow through, getting them addressed in the courts scenario so we get convictions for cases.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	You mentioned that looking at different departments taking up actions for gender based violence. What types of actions are we looking at?
ANGEL KHANYILE	There's a department that is looking after issues of women. I think it's the Department of Woman/Youth and there's also the Department of Social

	<p>Development. Social Development also looks after issues of people, that of women as well. And within that department normally when they have their reporting they have their targets, cause they need to have co-operatives and when they have those co-operatives they need to ensure that those co-operatives formed are fully supported by the government and that they are implemented so that the women can actually be able to be self-sufficient. But in most instances we, there's no one actually conducting an oversight. We need to monitor to check that all the programmes that are within those departments that they actually take place. So I think it was discussed in that context that we need to look at other departments that all the programmes they say they going to do, do they commit to and if they do not we need to know their reasons why. If an oversight is actually conducted we will be able to act well on time that there are certain programmes that did not take place and we'll know why. If there are many budget constraints we'll be able to address those challenges as well.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Well I suppose part of the challenge is that it doesn't just, woman don't only fall in with the department of woman and the department of social development, we account for 51% of the population, so our issues expand across all of the departments. Staying a moment with the multi-party caucus. For me it sounds like a very interesting initiative as being able to unify parties, to really focus on women's issues, because you know often things can be fragmented and issues could be diluted or derailed because they take place in various forms. But within the multi-party caucus this provides a unique way of being able to integrate that. What's your view?</p>
ANGEL KHANYILE	<p>Ok. There are examples that I have given to you. The other department that I've given to you I was just indicating them as examples but basically oversights need to be conducted in all departments of the government to ensure that woman capacitation takes place where it is mentioned as a target. And umm, yes there, it is, it is, the caucus is for women in particular to be able to discuss issues that affect them and no one is immune to gender based violence doctor. And I believe if we combine our efforts we will be able to defeat gender based violence.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>I really do hope so because we know that it is a major issue in our country, but we'll talk a little about that later in our interview. From a political party point of view the Democratic Party Alliance is fairly well established having evolved from the Progress Party which was formed in 1959. I understand that you joined the party in 2014 and you've served in various functions from youth to the women's infrastructure and became a member of parliament in 2017. Tell us a little bit more about your journey into politics.</p>
ANGEL KHANYILE	<p>Yes, like you indicated I joined the Democratic Alliance 2014 and I've served in different sectors in the local government. And in 2017 I became a member of parliament and in that term I was having the portfolio for social development and issues of gender based violence was among the issues discussed in that portfolio committee. After realising in our communities we have lots of, lots of gender based issues. I took it upon myself that we need to organise events that are going to educate and create awareness among men as well because we have noticed that most of these gender based violence, the perpetrators are men. So we held an event, it was the first event. It was in October 2018. We had a good attendance considering our municipality is not even that big. It was in the municipality. It was one of the many issues, of the many events that I, that we are still going to hold. I do believe that men need champion for the issues of gender based violence. Their voice also needs to be heard. They also need to tell us, how did we get to where we are and how can we come out of this situation. So this event was actually aimed at</p>

	<p>addressing those issues. And we've recently launched another foundation. It's Angel Khanyile Foundation. This foundation we are also going to carry on looking after issues of creating awareness around the issue of gender based violence. And we must make sure that all the time this issue remains a standing item. Then we are looking at issues of people living with disability. They are also aggrieved in our community together with youth development. And I have also returned to parliament this year. I am serving in the National Assembly. I am currently the Deputy Shadow Minister in the Portfolio of Home Affairs. I also participate in the African Parliamentarian Association for Human Rights steering committee and I'm currently studying towards a degree in public administration with MANCOSA</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Thanks for sharing your different miles stones on your journey thus far. What would you say that ignited you to get into politics? What was the key driver there?</p>
ANGEL KHANYILE	<p>I would say that it was uh, my back ground together with the passion that I have for our people. Growing up I was raised by mother. She's a single parent who is living with a disability. My mother is a mute and deaf as well but she was raised by my grandmother and both of them never had any source of income other than the government grant. And back in those days it was about 250 that they were getting and not per month. They were getting it bi-monthly. So I have an experience of going to bed on an empty stomach and at times we would look at the door and hoping that the next person who was going to knock was going to be a good Samaritan that is coming to rescue you. And the person was actually not going to come. I took it upon myself that hey when I grow up I want to make sure that I work very hard to change the life at home, change my background but not only that, to make sure that I make a difference in my community. To make sure that I become that knock that they have been waiting for, I become their voice, I become their answered prayer.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>That's an incredibly strong motivation on your journey into politics and being able to really drive a meaningful difference in our population. Staying with the Democratic Alliance for a moment, from a composition point of view what is the representation of woman in the party?</p>
ANGEL KHANYILE	<p>In the National Assembly we have about 30 women and a, in the NCOP we have 4 women.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And in terms of the parties policy on woman in its structures, is there a particular mandate or quota system?</p>
ANGEL KHANYILE	<p>No, no, we a, a, don't work on quotas. Normally what we do we elect our woman representation based on merit. Those there needs much to be done in terms of attracting woman who are capable to be in our structures. And I also know that some parties had a quota of 50 and what I know very well we can even exceed this number if it can be able to attract more women who are capable. We elect our woman based on merit.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>So if I'm not mistaken when I was looking at the figures, I think you have 84 or 88 seats in the National Assembly, so you have roughly around about 35% proportion of women verses men inside the National Assembly. As a gender based radio programme, we constantly focus on the importance of building female leadership capacity for our woman and also our country and in comparison to the public sector where we now have a cabinet of fifty female, male representations, the picture of women in leadership in corporate South Africa is not good to say the least. Various surveys have been compiled by the likes of Grant Thornton, McKinsey etc. as well as the Women's Business Association of South Africa. The BWA, and on the BWA they show that there's a survey of 277 Johannesburg stock exchange listed companies and in that woman only account for 29.5% executive managers, 19% directors, 6% chairperson and 4% CEOs.</p>

	How do you see female leadership in South Africa, whether it's from a political point of view or academic or professional?
ANGEL KHANYILE	Umm, Thank you so much for your question. I do believe there is much work to be done when it comes in relation to gender equity. For example, married woman can keep their maiden surnames or convert to their husbands but nothing in current legislation allows for married men to convert to their wives surnames. There are still many professions in the country where men are paid more than woman in the same profession. This must be specifically outlawed. Given that we come from a male dominated and a very patriarchal society, we need a complete review of all legislation to ensure that it promotes gender equality.
DR. MALKA	Do you think though that legislation is enough because one thing that South Africa is very good at is we have lots of policies, we've got lots of frameworks but if policy is not implemented then it falls short of all those ideals it was designed to protect or designed to deliver.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes and I think your question will take us back to the conversation that we had earlier on that we need to conduct more oversights to ensure that the legislation and all the resolutions taken are implemented. It has been proven that we have a challenge when it's comes to implementing and we need to do more oversights to ensure that implementation takes place.
DR. MALKA	So we've chatted about legislation, we've looked at opportunities of being able to close gaps by having greater oversight. What would be your advice to young girls and women when they are facing gender challenges?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I think they need to speak up. Women, young girls they need to speak up when they are out voted. They need to ensure that their voices are heard and they should ensure that SAPS open and investigate their reported cases instead of sending them back home to fix things. Because we have many woman doctor that have died after they have been turned away from police stations. And if they do not get required assistance they must contact us. We are elected by them, we are here for them. We will ensure that we will raise their matter with relevant structures offered for your communities.
DR. MALKA	So we need our women to not be afraid, to take action through their voices and to contact parliament. Is that what you saying?
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes. Yes. We are here for them. They need to contact us.
DR. MALKA	So besides gender based violence being one of the issues that woman are presently dealing with as well as looking at aspects of pay inequality for doing the same work as men but unfortunately being paid less. What other areas do you think still need attention with respect to women?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I think it's more to do with teaching our woman the value of being women. For them to be able to stand for themselves. For them to be able to stick up. For them to be able to stand for what is right. But I do believe if they do not know who they are and they do not know where their rights are, because that's where it starts, then they wouldn't know what to do. I think that is why in most instances our woman are actually vulnerable. So as leaders we need to go back to our communities and educate our woman up about their rights, so they can know when to speak up, so they can know when to say no. And they also need to understand that no means no. It begins with them because in some instances you find the woman that would say no and later deviate from that and it creates a pattern, especially, to the perpetrator that initially she said no but later she agree, so maybe this time around she is not even saying no. That's why they find themselves vulnerable and at the hands of the perpetrators.
DR. MALKA	So we need to create greater assertiveness. When need to create more confidence.

ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	And for woman to acknowledge and be aware of what their rights are in society.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes. Yes.
DR. MALKA	One of the things which I think has evolved over time is the way that we connect, the way that we disseminate information. Social media has increasingly become a growing channel. How do you find you utilize it to connect with constituents or to connect and engage with woman potentially about these types of issues?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I think social media can be used to communicate these issues but I also strongly believe in face to face, or one on one conversation, because at least there you can have an eye contact. When you raise your issues they can also be able to respond. I have noticed that some people follow us on social media but when you post some things they are not comfortable to talk about them on those types of platforms. Because you find that whatever their views are they will be seen by about 5000 followers. Whereas if having your meeting one on one contact, at times in the hall you can have 30 people and you find that they are sharing the same issues and you are able to address them. And as a leader it's very important to have constant communication, constant contact with, media people or your followers, your supporters because they need to know that you are for them. So I do believe that we need to have more personal interaction, though we need to utilise the social media platform but still we need to go on the ground to ensure that we have the one on one conversation.
DR. MALKA	So getting that human contact and providing that authenticity, that one on one connection.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Now besides the work that you do serving as the Deputy Shadow Minister of Home Affairs for the Democratic Alliance you also participate in the Parliamentary Association for Human Rights Steering Committee. Please could you tell us more about this association and what it aims to do?
ANGEL KHANYILE	What we do, we discuss the issues of human rights of people across the continent and I'm very happy that I attended this week's steering committee which we held in Cape Town, because what I have discovered is that most of the issues that we are confronted with here in South Africa, as far as gender based violence are concerned, is the issues of the killing of people that are living with albinism those we are actually not unique. We are not the only country that are experiencing those problems. Those are issues that are happening across the continent. So it will mean when we find solutions, if one country finds solutions, it basically means that the whole continent will be able to address their issues. So we are going to use all platforms that are available to us so that we can champion for issues of human rights.
DR. MALKA	And those are universal issues that concern everybody and umm, I think it's wonderful as you said that we can look at almost developing best practice that happens in one territory, and if we find the solution to be able to roll out to colleagues and other countries.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	You are listening to Womanity, Woman in Unity on channel Africa, the African perspective on frequency 9625 kHz on the 31 meter band. Also available on DSTV channel 802. Today, we are talking to Angel Khanyile who is from the Democratic Alliance and is currently a member of parliament in the National Assembly, serving on the portfolio committee of Home Affairs. We would love

	to receive your comments on twitter@womacitytalk. Miss Khanyile turning more towards a personal perspective one of the questions that I ask my guests on this programme who have all made tremendous achievements in their respective fields of expertise is about some of the factors that they consider have contributed to their success. So, some people speak about hard work, others talk about perseverance, a particular person in their life. In your opinion, what would you say have been some of your key drivers to success?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I believe it is hard work and perseverance and it is also knowing what you want. It is very important to know what you want. To know where you want to go in life and to work very hard ensuring that you bring that to life. You achieve that goal.
DR. MALKA	So having a plan of action. Setting your 2 year goals, your 5 year goals and that path to achieve it. That would be one of the, the tangible ways that you've have managed to attain your objectives.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes. Yes, but also you need to work very hard in achieving it because plan alone without action is, I don't know if there's a proper word to use, but it's gonna be useless. If you have a plan you must make sure you implement as well. Because in our discussion earlier on you indicated that as a country we believe we are very activated but lack of implementation. If we can plan and implement and go back and monitor and track that whatever we have planned are we actually getting any results out of it. I think that would be much better. So you need to plan and ensure that implementation takes place and monitoring as well.
DR. MALKA	So in your personal experience, you've got your plan of action, how do you manage to make sure you implement it?
ANGEL KHANYILE	Ok, so what really has happened, let me go back to when I was working as a PR councillor. I started serving in the Democratic Alliance as a PR councillor and basically what I had in mind, I got from being a PR councillor at a local level and when I move from that position I'm gonna go to district level and go to legislator and then go to National Assembly. The how I do my work, I have a diary that I'm using for my work and everything I have planned, I make sure I implement. If I do not implement I move it to the following day. Then at the end of the day I go back to monitor that the things that I did I actually did do them and the same goes with the promises that I make to the members of the community. I work very well with almost all communities as you know that the Democratic Alliance is a party for everyone. We work with, we have black followers, supporters or voters, we have white supporters or voters, we have Indian and coloured supporters or voters, so we go and have contact with all those communities and get their issues. When I get their issues it doesn't end there. If I commit that I'm going to raise their issues in parliament especially with regards to service delivery, I make sure that I come to parliament, I understand the motion to, to parliament and send it to my colleagues who are sitting in the portfolio committees, if the matter that I have received on the ground does not fall within my portfolio. So I believe if you work like that, after all, after I get to the receiving the response from parliament whether from a minister, if you've made a statement, because if you've made a statement you need to get a response, then you go back to the ground and give feedback. Now when you work in that manner you get members of community to be able to trust you. So I do believe that because in my everyday life when I work I have a plan that I'm using. I know that what will I be doing this week, what will I be doing the following month and all of that. It has actually helped me to get where I am because you know even your areas that need improvement, then you can also schedule that in your diary as well. Where you need capacitation, where you

	need to go see somebody that can actually give advice or register for you certain quotes. As I've also indicated that after joining politics, I also realised that I need to expand on my education and now I am currently studying in MANCOSA. I am doing a degree in public administration.
DR. MALKA	So you have got a very methodical approach. It gets onto the list and you make sure that there's carry over to ensure that all actions are made.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKA	Can you share with us who have been some of the strong women in your life?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I would say it is my grandmother. I was raised by my grandmother. She passed away in 2013. May her soul rest in peace. And she a, raised me under very difficult circumstances, but I remember very well that she taught me the, the, the family values, she taught me how to be humble, she taught me how to respect the next person. She also taught me how to say please and thank you and I do not think if she did not teach me all that things that I know today, I wouldn't be the woman that I am today and right now I am making sure that I teach those same values to my children and I also teach them to the members of community that I come into contact with.
DR. MALKA	So you work off a strong family values system that sounds like one of the key drivers in your DNA.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.
DR. MALKS	Now as you were growing up, I'm sure there must have been some key moments for you which have made you into the woman you are today. Please share with us some of the pivotal moments in your life at that time.
ANGEL KHANYILE	I think growing up in a home where I am raised by a single parent who is living with a disability, more than anything in your life, it makes you want to ensure that things not remain the same, it makes you want to work very hard to ensure that you become a better person so you can be able to change your background because you realise that the buck stops with you. And if you can do it, you believe in motivating many young girls out there and young woman that actually realise that if she did I also can, because I believe that some of our challenges that we are faced with in our communities are not unique. We are having many, many children even currently that are raised by parents that unemployed looking at the unemployment rate in our country. And I do believe that we have children out there that when they look at themselves they just know that things are not going to be same when I grow up I want to make sure that I work very hard to change, to change my background, to change, to change the way things are. And another thing, growing up in a, in a township one of the challenging thing is because everything that is happening, it is happening right in front of your door. I remember there was a woman that was actually killed by her partner. I think it was a few years ago, she was killed by her partner using an axe in, in their home. In that experience I realised that I just cannot sit down and fold my arms. Something needs to be done. It is one of the reasons that I decided I at least need to have a foundation where we are going to be able to create awareness around women so that can be able to, to, to voice out their concerns plus they can be able to check the signs of abuse. Because some women they are in abusive relationships but they don't even know that there are actually people that they can go out and speak to. They don't even know that there are social workers that they can go and speak to. So this is why I actually decided to help with this foundation and we are making progress. We are trying to reach out to as many communities as we can. And some of the programmes that we actually doing, I try every Sunday to visit churches. I go to a number

	of churches to speak about issues of gender based violence and encourage women to speak up because it's very important that they speak because if they do not they will not get assistance.
DR. MALKA	Those are all very moving points and I can hear the passion in your voice for the work that you do. Like you said if women are not speaking up then those issues remain hidden even though we're aware of them. And that is something which gender equality particularly in Africa; it touches these sensitive points from culture, religion and tradition. How do you think it will be possible to overcome these issues for the sake of women's development?
ANGEL KHANYILE	I think when it comes to this one it is a matter of which may be cultural, or religion or tradition that you, you, you belong to but at the end of the day I do believe that our culture gives us a sense of who we are and where we come from and what needs to happen within those structures, because in most communities we have structures that are formed by a certain number of people that are from that council. We need to form parts of those structures. Women need to be recognised in those structures so that they can be able to drive issues of women within those structures. Because nothing can happen in any structure without us knowing. Nobody can be able to express issues of women better than us. So if there are traditional structures that are taking place in our communities they need to ensure that women are acknowledged and recognised to form part of those structures so that they can be able to raise issues of women within those structures.
DR. MALKA	And one of the other things we've noticed and become aware of is the challenges between being able to juggle your career as well as motherhood. You've got children, you're very busy with all of the work that you do, whether it is with the parliament or looking at the African Parliamentary Steering Committee, how do you manage to cope with this juggle?
ANGEL KHANYILE	It's quite challenging, that I must admit, but like I have said before that planning is very important. Planning, planning and planning and implementation is very important. What I normally do, I work on the ground a lot, I spend almost, I wouldn't say all my time but most of my time when I'm in my constituency, I spend my time on the ground but I also make time to spend with my family. And I have three kids, my son is 16 and my girls, one is 8 and the other one is 3 years, so I make sure that all the time I spend time with them. When I'm at home, if I'm there for a week I make sure that I need time to do my constituency work because my community need me and my children need me as well so I can also know what is happening in their lives and as we are talking about issues of gender based violence I feel that it is very important as women to make time and speak to our children about those issues as young as they are. My daughter is 8, already we are talking about those issues because I feel it is very important. These issues they affect them as well. We always see on the news that there was a child of that age group that was raped and killed, even a 4 year old, even worse kids that are 8 or 4 months old are being raped and killed lately, but it is very important that we make time for our families, make time for our children, talk to them about issues of gender based violence so they can know when someone is touching them inappropriately. Be that bond and make sure your children trust you enough to be able to come to you. You should be the first person that they come to when they experience this kind of behaviour around them.
DR. MALKA	Those are important words and you are so right and it's something we have to make our girls aware of irrespective of what the age is because they are vulnerable.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Yes.

DR. MALKA	Now finally as we close our conversation today could you please share a few words of inspiration or wisdom that you would like to pass onto girls and young women who are listening to us on the continent.
ANGEL KHANYILE	I want to highlight to women that most women become victims of abuse by men. And we also know that men are raised by women. So as women we need to ensure that we look at the way of how we raise our boy child because the upbringing is very very important role in all the gender based violence that we are actually experiencing today. It is very much possible that everything starts at home. So it's very important as women how we relate to our boy child, how we communicate with them, what we say to them and what they are exposed to when we are raising them. And I also want to encourage girls and young women to believe in themselves and ensure that they educate themselves to be able to take part in our economy. They also need to know their value, they need to know who they are, they need to believe in themselves.
DR. MALKA	Thank you for that message of self-empowerment, self-belief and one where individuals not only change themselves but make the world a better place to live in. Thank you for joining us.
ANGEL KHANYILE	Thank you. Thank you so much Dr Amaleya.
DR. MALKA	You have been listening to Womanity, Woman in Unity on channel Africa, the African Perspective and we have been talking to Miss Angel Khanyile from the Democratic Alliance who is a member of parliament, serving in the National Assembly as well on the Portfolio Committee of Home Affairs
PROGRAMME END	