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PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY – WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: DM NOMALUNGELO GINA – DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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 Johannesburg studio today is South Africa's Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry; Nomalungelo Gina. Welcome to the show!
DM GINA	Thank you very much.
DR. MALKA	Deputy Minister, I always feel so proud of the progress on people's careers and when we first met and had an interview many, many years ago, you were at the time chairing the Portfolio Committee of Basic Education and now, here you are today, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry in arguably one of the most critical departments to generate and stimulate the country's economy. Firstly, can you tell us about some of the objectives that you want to achieve during this term of office?
DM GINA	Thank you very much. Maybe let me start by looking at the objectives of the department as a whole; Trade and Industry. As you were saying, it's one department where we are looking at how do we grow the economy of the country. It's one department that is playing a very critical role on the high levels of unemployment that the country is faced with. It's one department where we are saying how can we open up to the communities to make sure that they play a very important role in the whole economic activities in the country and how do we even connect what is happening within the country to the outside world, from the continent to...across internationally. So, my very objective is that what is it that I will do to make sure that we do open up that space for economic activities to take place in the country, but, above all I am a woman. One of the objectives for me is to make sure that in all the activities, the economic activities that will be taking place, what is the role of women in our country, not only women, I'm also very passionate with people living with disability. What is it, how do we create space for them also to be active, let everyone be part of what is happening in the country, let everyone contribute in the economic activities of the country, in the economic growth of the country. So, I don't wish to see - that's my objective – any sector or any grouping being left behind just because they were not exposed; they were not given those opportunities to take that critical role in our economy.
DR. MALKA	And that's such a strong affirmation of inclusivity....
DM GINA	...exactly....
DR. MALKA	...because we're all citizens of this country, we all deserve a right and in fact a responsibility to play our part.
DM GINA	Definitely so.
DR. MALKA	So we've spoken about some of these core objectives that you want to deliver; what would you say are some of the challenges that you experience in the Portfolio?
DM GINA	Ja, there are challenges, as I've said, DTI is such a very big department, all of the departments are big and they are important, but for me, one of the greatest challenges that I've seen when I first joined the DTI, there are so

	many good programmes that are there when it comes to the issue of how we are funding the emerging businesses groupings, how we are supporting the black industrialist, how are we making sure that we bring up that economic activism within our communities. The greatest challenge that I've seen when I arrived is that the programmes within the department are not that much known.
DR. MALKA	So we need more awareness.
DM GINA	For me, as the department, we need more awareness, we have got so many entities that are working, that are assisting people, but for me, what is more critical is to say how do we let ourselves known? I wish to reach a point wherever you are in the corners of South Africa or whether in the deepest rural area, when you ask a person about what is it that DTI is doing, he can be able to say oh, you mean that department, that department we get this one, two and three, we can be assisted...DTI has done one, two and three, of which is not yet, we are not yet there, it's not what we find...we found when we go out there to the communities. So, it's one area where I am saying as DTI I think how we disseminate information, how do we let people know us; the role that we are playing. I believe we are playing a very critical role, but once we do that, it could be a breakthrough even to the people outside there to say the government is there, the department is there; it's there for us, it's there to assist us and really I can assure you once we win that, so many people will be assisted.
DR. MALKA	And in part, I guess that's what the media platforms like this can help offer for....
DM GINA	...definitely so....
DR. MALKA	...generating that exposure....
DM GINA	...that's a relationship that we need to build even with people like you so that we can disseminate that information, ja.
DR. MALKA	One point that I wanted to touch on; you spoke about the objectives of being able to open up markets, of not just from what we're doing in South Africa, but going across our borders and into the continent. We've got aspects like The Continental Free Trade Agreement; can you just expand a bit on some of those policies and how we're starting to foster greater trade into the continent?
DM GINA	Ja, that's one area that we are very excited about where we saw that agreement being signed; The African Continental Free Trade during May, if you remember well, where most of the countries in South Africa has signed on that one and we are looking forward as to say once it is up and running and is in place, we are going to be seeing our own business people; our own manufacturing within South Africa opening up to trade with other African countries and what is even more important is that through that agreement we will be building that African...that continental economy and what is important when we look at that agreement, we are saying we don't want to see African countries competing. It's one agreement where we are saying as the continent, how are we going to cooperate, how are we going to complement each other, how can we build this African economy together, then, it will even give us more muscle as African countries even to trade with other countries across the borders, outside of our continent and it's one thing that we have seen most of our presidents, even President Cyril Ramaphosa, is looking at that. Yes, I won't be talking on the issues of the currency that we are using, but, we know basically once we start doing that, we build this economy together; there will be less competition even when it comes to the issue of the currencies that we are using as Africa, you see, it's a road leading to that. So it's one policy that is very exciting to us as South Africans, to us as the Department of Trade and Industry because we are

	going to be playing a very critical role even to open up the markets to our manufacturers, to whatever that we are trading end, you know, the agreement is to say there will be that free trade within the African countries, but, if I am saying free, it's not just an open cheque. Definitely there will be regulations as to say what is it, how do you do it, but it's one policy that is very exciting agreement that we have reached.
DR. MALKA	It sounds very, very positive and often we hear about some of the dynamics on doing business that cutting through the red tape is a massive hurdle, so by having this free trade agreement across the continent, it will improve sustainability and stimulate economic development.
DM GINA	Definitely so.
DR. MALKA	Turning now towards women; I know that you'd mentioned women as a passion point as well as persons with disabilities on being in the minority; financial independence contributes to the empowerment of women and therefore women's participation in the labour force has important macro-economic contributions, but globally, when we look around the private sector, women tend to be underpaid in comparison to their male counterparts. In South Africa the figure sits at around 23% less, they work in lower ranking roles and they're over-represented in the unskilled labour force; can you tell us about some of the programmes that the Department of Trade and Industry has to empower women economically?
DM GINA	There are quite a number of them. Firstly, let me talk to one policy that we have within the department, that one of triple BEE.
DR. MALKA	Triple BEE?
DM GINA	Exactly. It's one thing that we are very...we are guarding against it very jealously as to say is it being applied the way it should be, you know, because when you look at the pillars of triple BEE, women are at the centre of that. We must make sure it's one thing that we look at...you made mention even of the private sector, where we are very much concerned as to say being private sector, being private as they are, but are they adhering to the principles of triple BEE and it's one area I can assure you it's one unit that is very active within the department, to make sure that they do those follow-ups. We are very disturbed, as we are saying, even this year with the reports that we are getting, I think we are even below 20% now; the representation of women when it comes mostly to the private sector when it comes to management positions and...
DR. MALKA	...and it's a huge contrast with what you've got in government.
DM GINA	Exactly. That is why we are saying we need to make sure that we are...we engage them now and again and on the side of the government, the government is doing very well, yes, we are still not there where we are but looking at the government really, the quotas that have been there, we are looking at the 50/50 percent...50/50 at almost all the levels that we are in. So, the government is doing very well but even within the government itself; let me make an example with what we have been saying with the unit on triple BEE. You will find that even with the government entities like the boards; water boards, whatever boards that are there on the various entities that we are having, yes, we might have that person data to say women are there but what troubles us even more; you will find that we have got a water board, you will find that we have got an SAA board, you will find that we have got Eskom board and so forth; what we must look at now as women and as government as such, as to say do we have a spread of women representatives there? Let us not find uNomalungelo Gina being a member of a board at Eskom and then we'll clap hands to say there is transformation and women are being considered.

DR. MALKA	When you've got one token female.
DM GINA	Exactly, you go to another board, you will find the same Nomalungelo there. So, let us not make women a token or let us not make women tokens. Let us make sure that we spread so that we see that definitely at the end of the day we empower quite a number of women. That is why, as DTI again talking to that point, we have got a programme where are saying we are going around the country; we are developing women in business, the cooperative women, so that we can be...we can have that upper-hand when we challenge these institutions as to say but where are women, why are we seeing one because most of the time you'll get a response as to say; but we have looked around we don't have women that are ready. So, we want to have that pool of women that are ready to say when we challenge them or if you say you don't find them but you say we have trained them; we have got a pool there. That is exactly where we want to get into. We will have that list, we will very proud to say here are the women that have been trained, they are qualified, make use of them. So, that's exactly where we are as DTI now.
DR. MALKA	And going from board level to cooperatives, I know that there is often a fine line between small business versus Department of Trade and Industry; are there any specific programmes that help women in rural areas with their enterprise?
DM GINA	There are, definitely. I'll make just one example, you know, I'm very excited, just two days ago or currently..... is still sitting in Durban where women in agriculture, the agri..... are gathered there to say what is that we can do as women of the continent seated together. It's one angle where, as DTI again we are playing a very critical role in yes, as you are saying, for me as you are saying there is a very thin line between Department of Small Business. I will say there is a very thin line between almost all the departments that we are working in as government but we are forging ahead with the cooperation, the inter-departmental relation as we work with these programmes like that one. There is also a very thin line between us, DTI, Small Business and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture because yes agriculture will be there working with those farmers, whether emerging farmers or not, but we are not folding our arms as to say yes agriculture is working there; they are producing. Once they produce, where do they take....
DR. MALKA	...where do they sell....
DM GINA	Exactly. We get in; we are opening up market opportunities. We are getting in as to say when we come to the level of agri-processing where do you take their products to. So, that very inter-relationship between the departments is very critical so definitely as the Department of Trade and Industry we are taking a keen interest when it comes to those cooperatives. We are taking a keen interest when it comes to those emerging farmers. Let me make another example; we were in that summit you find they are exhibiting, go to one stand, very beautiful products, they are saying Deputy Minister we need funding, we need machines because we want to produce peanut butter and they're seated there with beautiful bottles, you taste it, it is tasty. But then our interest will go as follows; yes, you are producing this peanut butter, its good work, the department must assess it, but for me what is important for me is the whole issue of the value chain. Where do you even source these peanuts that you are producing your peanut butter with, then you'll get a response like eh, we have to go to these big companies like maybe Boxers or what, what, choose to source the peanut butter, then the questions will be that's the relationship we are talking about. We need to go to the Department of Agriculture and say

	<p>Agriculture, we are the women that are ploughing the peanuts, what is it that we can do to link them with that so that even when we come and find as the Department, as government, but we know that we are starting the value chain from where it starts, we know that there are those who are producing, the Department of Agriculture has sponsored them. Yes, they have produced, they have, you know, they are taking to these one's now that are processing, we are funding them, it will cost...that whole value chain, it's shaking the economic activities, you know, from the one who has been planting, he knows very well or they know, those will know very well that their product is going somewhere, it's going to be taken, the market is open from the beginning of the value chain up until we even export that peanut butter. So that's the way that we always sit down with other departments and say what is it that we can do together to make sure that we shake and shape the way that our economy is working in the country.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And it brings together aspects of sustainability and increasingly...in the past we always used to think of value chains as this beautiful linear system, but now, it really is about network systems that you are going into this direction, shifting across into another direction; they all feed into the system.</p>
DM GINA	<p>Exactly, they all feed into...it's an ecosystem.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Exactly, perfect and circular economy.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>You are listening to 'Womanity – Women in Unit' 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 South Africa's Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry; Nomalungelo Gina.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Deputy Minister, drawing on your background in education, you were previously chairing the Committee on Basic Education and now as Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry where you're seeing the wealth of knowledge and the impact that it has on people. We know that education is a vital tool to empower individuals and societies and even basic levels of literacy and numeracy have had profound effects on the wellbeing of women, benefits from greater control of fertility rates to reduced child mortality to improved health management, as well as poverty reduction and in fact UNESCO indicates that an additional year of schooling improves a 10% yield on earnings. Do you think that we're doing enough to ensure that this knowledge is preached to every forum possible and passed from mothers to daughters, particularly in underprivileged communities?</p>
DM GINA	<p>Is there enough that I'm not sure whether I will answer you well. Yes, but there is something that we are doing but I don't think we are there yet. But, though as we are saying I am coming from the background of Basic Education where the issue of education has been highly...is always highly emphasised. Remember even that department, when it comes to how do we even open up the opportunities to those who did not get a chance, even to get those education opportunities, I will just cite one programme what was very good from the Department of Basic Education and I wish it can even continue, whether in another form or not. There was a programme where the Department was opening up for some kind of education, the literacy programmes and most especially it was focusing on people in the rural areas and looking at the intake to that programme, mostly it was women in the rural areas. It was one of the SDG's priority or goals that we must eradicate illiteracy in the country and the Department of Basic Education embarked on that programme of which it came to an end, I think two or a year or two years ago because when that survey was done almost everyone had an opportunity to do that. I'm mentioning that because it's one programme that exposed a lot of women, opened up...I will be biased and</p>

	say women, not that it was opened up for women, but as I am saying, going to those deep rural areas, you'll find that those classes it was full of women because most of the time it was women that were very much disadvantaged, not even to know how to count, how to write their names and so forth. And by so doing what I even liked, once they were going into those classes, next to that, the department made sure that there's a sort of crèche where they can take their grandchildren, their children to whilst they are also embarking on the issues of education...
DR. MALKA	...and that's such an enabler...
DM GINA	...I'm telling you, it was a very nice programme of which I really thank the Department of Basic Education and the whole government of South Africa for doing that. It was a game changer, quite a lot of it, because it's one of the classes where they were not only learning how to read and write, but to count, to...you know, the basic mathematical skills, even doing practical examples as to say when you are selling your cabbages this is what you are getting. I mean to say those are such programmes that we are saying even if the Department of Basic Education has stopped that programme, but, even other departments we can have such a kind of classes where we are saying those who didn't get a chance to be exposed to education but, on what we are doing as the Department there is something that we can do to educate the people. As I have said when we started, one of the challenges is that people do not know much of our departments; for me that's education. You go there, you make those public participations, people are getting to know...education is so broad, you know, I don't even mean when...I don't even think when we mean education it's because you want them to be able to write their names or not, but, we are saying how do we educate our communities on what the government is offering, on what the various departments are doing. So, for me, I will really concur with you, education is a tool that can bring change to our communities out there.
DR. MALKA	And in that example you cited it sounded as though it had such incredible impact on economic empowerment.
DM GINA	Definitely it did. It did.
DR. MALKA	That these women could then go forwards and improve themselves, improve their business, improve their economies.
DM GINA	Yes.
DR. MALKA	We've touched base on some of the work that government has done in our conversation today. Looking back, we're now 26 years into our democracy, do you think that as a country we're in the right place that we'd imagined, or rather that you'd imagined, pre 1994?
DM GINA	Ja, there are great strides that we've made as a country; there are so many changes that we have brought to...our government has brought to the country. Yes, I know we are still faced with all these challenges, mostly we term it these triple challenges, that of poverty, unemployment and inequality, but, when you look at the journey that we have travelled, really, there's so much; we are seated here now even talking to how far, how best can we even further emancipate women. We have talked to the issues of quotas that are there, we have seen women now holding those powerful positions, of which those are the things we never dreamed of. We see the level of illiteracy decreasing drastically in the country. Those are the opportunities that have been open. We see the quality of education that we are in, yes, we still have a long way to go but there are great strides that we have taken as a country. Look at the health facilities that we have, the health system as a whole, that you know, there's so much that I can say our government has delivered to the South Africans; to the country as a whole.

	<p>Yes, there are so many other challenges but the strides that we are taking, even on economic activities. We know that one thing that we always say we did get our political freedom but when it comes to economic freedom we are not yet there, but really, looking at the programmes, the assistance that the government is giving to our people; we are on the right track, it's a challenge. We are coming from a very low background, for us to climb that ladder it will take some time but really, with the strides that are there... I know again looking at me like that you will say you go out there in the public they will talk of issues of corruptions and so forth; those are the things again that we are seeing our government hard on as to say let us uproot this corruption because it's really hindering so many things that the government could be achieving and looking at the sixth administration that we are in, we are...I strongly believe, taking from what has been happening even from other administrations, we are on the right track. Yes, there are things here and there that we need to look at and as we are saying; are we getting there? I'm happy even to share with you that as the Department of Trade and Industry, right now, when we look at the economic activities and what is it that we can do to make sure that people strive and you know they use whatever they have, we are busy right now on the consultations, sort of public participation, where we are trying even to revive the survival economy that we have. Economies like...things like stokvels that we have. Things like cooperatives as to say how those things can be regulated to make sure that our people do see the benefits of such activities. You can go to whatever rural area, wherever, in all the corners of South Africa; that's where our women are strong at but as government what is it that we are getting in there to assist them. It's going towards the end of the year, you will find them, they are very excited, they will be going to those stokvels, getting a lot of money but...</p>
DR. MALKA	...and these are social policies....
DM GINA	<p>...that is social policies so we are getting into that space again to say how best can we get in and assist them when it comes to that. That economy, how best can we make it work even better for them; what can we do even to drive them to think in a better form because for an example; what is always disturbing, we play...let me put myself there because that is where I come from. We play this stokvel, we put money, at the end of the year we go and buy bulks and bulks of food, getting 10kgs of rice at a go, 5kgs of flour, you know, something that you don't...yes, you need, but you don't need that much. If ever you were capacitated to even use what you have saved for the year for, you know, to sustain you even in a better way. So that is where we are even trying to get in as government, as DTI, to say how best can we be part of this journey, this survival journey, this economy that our people are creating so that it can even bare more fruits, better fruits for them to sustain their lives moving forward.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It's such an exciting portfolio that you're part of and it literally touches every single person in the country. Turning towards more of a personal point of view; one of the questions that I ask all my guests on this show who've made tremendous achievements in their respective areas of expertise or career choices, whether it's in business or politics, is about some of the factors that they consider have contributed to their success?</p>
DM GINA	<p>Mostly what contributed to my success, definitely it will start from the family. I believe everyone will say my mother has been one of the people that has driven. Definitely I will start from my family background; the way I grew up. Maybe I must reveal, seated here; I am a woman, I'm a black South African, a woman worse, living with disability. I see you are looking</p>

	<p>at me, yes I do. Look at me now. One thing as I am saying, the most pillar and people that have shaped to what I am now, I will definitely say it will start from my parents, where they will say, my father specifically will say yes my child you are who you are, you might not be the same like other children here in the house but God has given you brains, you can think for yourself, you are a complete human being. So that is why even when you started I said I am very passionate when it comes to women and mostly when it comes to people who are living with a disability. I know sometimes the way they can be looked at out there within the communities, as if once you are not the same as other people there is something wrong with you. I will just to come in there and say whether you are living with disability or not, you are a complete human being. You can prove yourself. You have got that mind that God has given you, there is so much that you can get out there. Then, moving out of my family, yes there are women, our four mothers, our leaders, our...you know, that I've always looked at. I know leaders like Mama Winnie Mandela; they were very inspirational to us as we grew up. You look at that woman and say wow; I wish one day I can be brave like that woman. I wish that one day I can stand in front of those people, those masses and say something, you know, those are kind of women that we have been looking up to as we grew up trying to, you know, by all means to say one day I will reach that day where people can stand, can be quiet all of them and listen to me what I am saying. So, those are the kind of...the environment that we grew in, worse, growing from a very deep rural area of KwaZulu-Natal, even looking at those leaders like Mama Winnie Mandela, it's not something that you were exposed to for a long time, you know. Those TV's whenever you get a chance just to peep and look at the TV you will see these powerful women and we are saying it's Mamu Tambo, it's Mamu Sisulu, you know, we'll say my goodness how do they do it, you know. So as we grew up we are getting exposed, we are getting into schools, we are interacting with other people, you see that this is something that is doable. You try you start, you begin to get into those student associations. You begin to say...to raise your hand in that meeting afraid as to say my goodness, is what am I going to say, you know, did I give much thought. Once you say your point and you are not being howled at you say oh, I did it today so it means I can do it another day. So that is how we grew up in life and getting into those associations, getting into the tertiary education, following up, getting into the student movement, coming out, going to work, joining all the labour union and that is how one must build and now and again you feel that at least I can think I can be recognised. You begin to say indeed my parents what you were saying, I am a human being, I am a full human being; there is much that I can do to contribute to the betterment of my country.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>It sounds like you drew on the inspiration of your parents, you drew on the aura of those iconic women who were very powerful, that really struggled for the country, for themselves, but to make and ensure that South Africa is a better place for all. What was the fire that got you into politics?</p>
DM GINA	<p>The fire that got me into politics. The first time that I became interested in politics, yes my parents were not that much into politics but I am happy we could talk with my parents, who could understand as I'm saying, who could play that music of politics, those songs during those times where it was said they were banned, we would play them with a very low volume at home. Then by then they couldn't explain much; why, why are these things banned, you know, but that sparkle was there as to say what is happening? But where really I had a breakthrough was at my secondary school level. I was at Ohlange High School; one teacher that we had was Umama</p>

	Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
DR. MALKA	...wow....
DM GINA	...she was a teacher at Inanda Seminary, ah not Inanda Seminary, Ohlange. Whites were still there, it was during the times where the politics in KZN was quite rough, you know, you will remember those years and this woman, Umama Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will call us, you know, we'll have those groupings, we'll distribute these pamphlets, Umama Phumzile we were getting those classes. So I will say I am happy because Umama Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, I know she doesn't even know me. I can meet her; she won't even recognise that I was her learner during those times, so, she was one woman again who contributed a lot in changing my thinking and my interest into politics. Then as I proceeded I went to the University of Zululand; that is then when we started to be more exposed to politics, having those classes, political classes, joining SASCO and so forth and so forth. So, I can basically say my political life started when I was at the secondary school, though, it was much against my family. My father did not want to hear much for you to be active in politics, one thing that he wanted is for you to get an education, you know, but you know there's nothing that he could have done, it started....
DR. MALKA	...you got the call....
DM GINA	...yes....
DR. MALKA	And lastly, as we close out the conversation today, could you share a few words of inspiration or wisdom that you'd like to pass onto girls and women that are listening to us in Africa?
DM GINA	Yes, there is so much. I will start with women; women of South Africa. Yes, there are challenges that we are faced with, there is so much, you know I always say you as a woman, you are...women are the pillars, they are the pillar of our lives, from the family life up to the communities and so forth so I always say let us always value the position that we have as women; the power that we have as women. We might not see it but we do. With the struggles, the challenges that we are faced with, women we are saying let us not despair, there is so much that is ahead of us, there is so much that is in for us. For me it's just let's unite; let's always have platforms where we share our experiences and say what is it that we can do to hold each other's hands to make sure that we reach the goal that we need to. But more especially to young women, the girls out there; I think it's very rare when you find that those girls have been killed by another woman, it's a man most times that are doing it, so, we are saying really if we can come together as a community in the country, in the continent as a whole because it's not something of South Africa only but looking even all the African countries it's one struggle that we are faced with, so, it's just a plea really as to say we are all human beings, we complement each other, male and female, let us live in our countries in a very, you know, in a very warm relationship that we have. Let us build our continent together. We are going to make it. We will succeed.
DR. MALKA	Thank you very much, it's been a pleasure having you on our show today and we wish you all the very best in this vital portfolio in the coming years.
DM GINA	Thank you very much.
	PROGRAMME END