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**GUEST NAME: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2022 – PART 2**

**SANKIE MTHEMBI-MAHANYELE – SOUTH AFRICA’S AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND; MS LALA MSWANE – MISS SOUTH AFRICA 2021; DM SANDRA MCCARDELL – ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EUROPE**

<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
DR. MALKA	Hello, I’m Dr. Amaleya Goneos-Malka, welcome to ‘Womanity– Women in Unity’. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African Women’s milestone achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socio-economic class division and gender based violence.
DR. MALKA	Joining us today for our special insert on International Women’s Day is South Africa’s Ambassador to Switzerland, Sankie Mthemb-Mahanyele. Welcome to the show Ambassador!
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<b>Thank you very much for inviting me to your show.</b>
DR. MALKA	Ambassador International Women’s Day is celebrated annually on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of March in many countries around the world and the intention is about celebrating the achievements and the progress that women have made. As I was reflecting on this event I noticed that the United Nations began commemorating International Women’s Day 47 years ago in 1977, there have been earlier observations dating back to Circa 1909. Looking at the progress that is being made towards gender equality, we have had the Women’s Bill of Rights through the adoption of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, we have had the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we have had the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was a defining framework outlining objectives and actions which consisted under 12 critical areas that would help advance women’s rights. Ambassador in your view, what is significant about International Women’s Day?
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<b>The significance of Women’s Day to everybody in the world, to all the nations that are alert to the issue of women, is that it is that moment when we are raising awareness to issues of women’s discrimination and all of those issues in society that impact negatively to women. It is also a moment where we celebrate the achievements of women, like you are saying, when the issue came up in 1908 or 1909, people were looking at specific issues that were impacting negatively against women, issues of labour, issues of the war, issues of equality, issues of discrimination, so there has been a build-up to what we have today and that history is very important. More important in 2022 because one of the issues that the women’s platform raised during the first world war and the second world war, was the issue of peace and currently we are celebrating March 2022 under the shade of a war where vulnerable groups are going to be heavily negatively impacted upon and one of those groups are women and children, so this March is very significant because it also raises an alarm to the fact that conflict in the world hits the most vulnerable, particularly women.</b>
DR. MALKA	You are 100% right, whenever there are issues that impact on vulnerable members of society it does impact on women and it shows the divisions of

	<p>society and inequalities. With this year's theme concerning sustainability, I have to mention aspects of Goal Number 5 of the United Nations, 17 Integrated Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 5 is achieve gender equality and empower all girls and the mere fact that we have this goal reminds us that 50% of the population still experience inequality, we still have discrimination against women, there is still violence against women, women are still subjected to harmful practices like forced marriage; how do you think we can increase the pace of progress towards global gender equality?</p>
<p><b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b></p>	<p><b>There are lots of things that nations can do, governments can do, legislatures can do, society can do, non-governmental organisations can do, families can do, individuals can do. We have to ensure that there is a legislative framework that addresses the issue of discrimination against women and seeks for gender equality in society. We have got to make sure that there are monitoring and evaluating instruments within government, which are formal instruments that can be used to monitor whether governments are implementing legislation towards gender equality, one is thinking particularly here by South Africa, we have got legislation that has been passed to promote gender equality, so in order for us to be able to make sure that the law is there, it is being implemented, we also need to look at its impact on women, is it improving their lives, is it putting them closer to access of services, is it assisting them to get into the economic mainstream, so we need those tools to be able to monitor progress around the issue. Our government, like other governments in the world, have created and established the Ministry of Women's Issues and we have ours located in the president's office, which shows the seriousness and the importance of the issue of gender equality. We also have to make sure that women are supported; women that are out there in the working place, in the fields, in society are supported so that they are able to achieve their potential to the maximum. Women go out there and work because that is one area where there has been advanced improvement to get women into the labour force, but whilst they are out there, there are other issues that tend to minimise their contribution, because their focus is also concentrated on household needs, they have got to continue to take care of children, they have got to make sure that the household is run efficiently and surprisingly when assessment is being made, women tend to be judged on a higher yardstick than men, despite the fact that they are carrying a double task in their hands. So those are the kind of things that we need to look at, but there are also issues like looking at the mentor/mentee system, where successful women in society, be they in politics, be they in ordinary organisations, be they in government, can mentor the younger girl child in order for them to give them a level of motivation and desire to aspire for their highest goals in society. But we also have to make sure that as society we look at those issues that tend to detract the girl child from achieving their goals and those issues, the ones that we have mentioned, issues of early pregnancies, issues of girls attention being diverted by the sugar daddy syndrome, the issue of early marriages, the issue of pulling out the girl child from school because she has to come home and learn about taking care of the household because she is preparing for marriage; all of those things need to be attended to urgently in society, particularly our continent, which is a continent that has got a high population of young people and this is the future of the continent. We have just managed to achieve one of the greatest in terms of the economic ambition of trying to make sure that as a continent we do organise ourselves in an integrated manner. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement is opening up opportunities of</b></p>

	<p><b>an economic nature; infrastructure, telecommunication, you can name it, in order to do that we need all of our youth and amongst that youth we have got the girl child, so there is no way we are going to achieve all of this without having the girl child. International institutions, the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and everybody else is trying to integrate the world and get us to a harmonious space, in order to do that you need the participation of women.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Well said Ambassador and what I really appreciate about the things that you have said is that they are all practical, there is nothing that cannot be achieved if we apply our minds and importantly one of the things that you spoke about was the issue of monitoring and evaluation; we know things that get measured get done.</p>
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Ambassador, as this day is about celebrating women's achievements, please can you select a couple of women that you would like to celebrate today for some of the achievements that they have made contributions towards gender equality for women.</p>
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<p><b>Thank you for that question because we need role models, we need people we can look up to that would inspire us to reach certain goals and dreams that we have. Excuse me for this, one feels comfortable talking about people one has known and worked with and what comes to mind is one of the most prominent leaders of our struggle, Ma Ruth Mompati, who took us in when we came into exile very young and nurtured us to understanding our role in society, to understanding the expectations that are placed upon us as a younger generation, but also to understand that in order to achieve those goals we have got to secure ourselves, know what it is that we will lead us to higher goals and know what it is that will actually set us back in achieving our objectives. Last year we celebrated Charlotte Maxeke, 100 years of her birth and the importance of that celebration is also to understand that there has been women before us, there have been those who paved the way for us, she was the first black woman to get a BSC at a university in the United States. She came back and utilised that knowledge to achieve some of the objectives that were part and parcel of the Agenda of Liberation. She got into the education sector, she got into the campaign and mobilising sector, mobilising the youth and women, she got involved in empowering women in the liberation movement in the African National Congress, she got involved in supporting NGOs in society, so she has played that very prominent role that we begin to highlight and admire to this day. We think of women like Ma Gertrude Shope, very quiet, working very quietly, not a public person but she has done a lot in nurturing the women who left home early in the struggle in the 1970s to help to get them focused, to help them to get skills, to help them develop to a level at which they can contribute and share with society all those gains. In the same light of the late Ma Florence Moposho who did the same for the contingent of women in exile. You think of women like very quiet and not highly recognised, but they have done a lot of work and represented women in the military structure and that is Jackie Modise, who was also occupying a very prominent role in our current democratic military structure. So you have got all of those women who laid the foundation and paved the way for us, but there are many more others. We are beginning to have CEOs in listed companies in the Stock Exchange, they all need support and we are proud of them.+</b></p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Thank you for sharing that cross spectrum of women who have impacted on</p>

	society and really helped to advance the movement towards gender equality. Lastly, as we close out our conversation today, please can you use this platform to share a message for women on International Women's Day?
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<b>The struggle for women's liberation and emancipation from all those supporters of oppression continues, it will have to continue for a very long time. We are in an environment of patriarchy which manifests itself in various forms, we have got to begin to take up the opportunity of having those instruments that remind society that women are equal to men because they are human beings and fighting for equality for women is also fighting for human rights principles, we need to continue to do that. On all platforms that are occupied, both men and women should remember to support the work of women at all levels in society. We are breaking the ceiling, we have got to make it crack and collapse, we have got to remember as well that the struggle for women's liberation and the struggle for gender equality also is part and parcel of the class struggle in society. Women occupy all aspects of life and activities in society, it is also a part of class struggle, so there are also ideological issues that come into play, there are women in the labour force on the factory floor, women in politics, women in the economy and we have got to understand that exclusion of women is also an economic issue, so it carries and spreads across all aspects of society. The struggles continued, at some stage it was about bread and peace at some stage in the 1900s, but we also continuing to say it is about bread, peace and women's enhancement in society and empowerment.</b>
DR. MALKA	Great message, thank you very much Ambassador, as always, a pleasure hosting you on the show, thanks for joining us.
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<b>Thank you for the opportunity.</b>
DR. MALKA	Happy Women's Day Ambassador!
<b>AMBASSADOR MAHANYELE</b>	<b>Happy Women's Day to you and the women of the world!</b>
DR. MALKA	That was South Africa's Ambassador to Switzerland, Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele.
	<b>AD BREAK</b>
DR. MALKA	Joining us next in our special series for International Women's Day 2022 is Miss SA 2021, Lalela Mswane, who was also crowned second runner-up for Miss Universe 2021. Welcome to the show!
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	<b>Thank you Dr. Amaleya, thank you.</b>
DR. MALKA	The theme for UN's Women's International Women's Day 2022 is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" and in part of the way that they had unpacked this theme, they recognised the contribution of women and girls around the world who are leading the change for climate change adaptation, mitigation and response in order to build a more sustainable future for everyone. We have annual global events like International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and more locally national awareness days like Women's Day in South Africa; how effective do you think these campaigns are to drive change in a positive direction for women?
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	<b>I definitely think they are imperative in driving change, positive change, just to add on what you said, actually with Miss Universe last year the focus was sustainability in fashion and it is quite amazing how events and campaigns such as what you just mentioned and Miss Universe make you super aware after, post the fact, post the event, post the campaign, of you know what change you are trying to drive. I mean it's little acts now that</b>

	<b>I think of, you know, of how I am being of impact even today in the little things that I do daily, purely because that was the theme at Miss Universe, now that has been stuck with me and not only with me but those around me, because I am forever tuning people in, because everybody knows that that was the theme and even, it's so funny, at the mall for instance I will say oh that's a cute dress or whatever and people around me are like ja, fast fashion or sustainability, remember, do you need it? So it is very, very impactful I think, I know so, definitely it is.</b>
DR. MALKA	Staying on this theme of your Miss Universe experience, you had the opportunity to interact with young women from across the world. Gender equality is unfortunately a worldwide reality, in relation ...
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	... yes ....
DR. MALKA	... to this year's theme for International Women's Day, how do you think we can reduce gender equality to build a more sustainable future and I know it's a bit like saying here's a crystal ball.
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	<b>It is deep rooted ideas like gender stereotypes and gender roles that I think we are struggling with, just reversing those ideas, which I know seems, I am just saying this and it all sounds, you know, very easy but these are very complex issues but I do really think they are the root cause of so many of these gender inequalities that we see, such as the gender pay gap, you know, that's still so existent, women are being paid much less by virtue of being women and that is super super unfortunate and it's funny because of Miss Universe so many of the ladies share stories of because I am a woman they said I couldn't, dot dot dot, you know, so many things purely because we are women and there they were, living testimonies of just how powerful we are, the strength we possess, the ability, the capability that we possess. So definitely gender stereotypes and roles.</b>
DR. MALKA	And lastly, in celebration of International Women's Day, can you share a message for girls and women that are listening to the show today?
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	<b>I think we need to take our power back as women, we definitely need to stop waiting for opportunities to be handed to us, but instead create our own tables, not to wait for seats to be allocated to us and always just know that we honestly have everything within our reach to achieve anything we've ever, ever wanted in life.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you for that wonderful message; it's been a pleasure to host you on the show and Happy International Women's Day!
<b>MS LALA MSWANE</b>	<b>Thank you Doc, likewise.</b>
DR. MALKA	That was Miss SA 2021, Lalela Mswane.
	<b>AD BREAK</b>
DR. MALKA	Joining us next in our special series for International Women's Day 2022 is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Europe, Arctic, Middle East, Maghreb, in Canada, Sandra McCardell, who was formally the High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Lesotho and Namibia. Welcome to the show!
<b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b>	<b>Welcome, great to see you again, great to reconnect with South Africa, I must say I miss Mzansi terribly and in fact I forgot to mention that in my own home department for Global Affairs in Canada, I am actually also the champion for women in our department, so one of my roles here is to make sure to advance or to support women advancing their careers in foreign affairs and in government, so a fantastic opportunity to be talking to you for International Women's Day.</b>
DR. MALKA	Well thanks for sharing the extension of your portfolio. The current theme for

	<p>this year's International Women's day is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". Can you share with us what your views are around this year's theme?</p>
<p><b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b></p>	<p><b>I think every year there is a fantastic way for us to be able to share together how to advance our women in the world. This year a sustainable tomorrow, a fantastic way of describing what the future means for us, for 50% of the population. You know, I know that there is a lot of work going into this around climate change for example, I think given how directly climate affects women in many countries, certainly women are rather responsible for ensuring there's food on the table every day, some of them working in agriculture are certainly very attuned the climate, it makes great sense, but there is quite frankly nothing that we can do in sustainable development goals that doesn't include half the world's population. We need to be there, our needs need to be understood, we need to have a voice at the table and we need to be among the factors of change, so I think it's a great place for us to start. You know look, maybe from my government's point of view we have a feminist foreign policy, we have a feminist international assistance policy as well and that's exactly because when we were looking at how we could support development around the world, Canada acknowledged that having half the population be part of our work was essential and since there was ground to be gained, we need to make it the absolute focus of what we do, so our programming around the world is focused on gender equality, but in its larger sense, how we can ensure women have equality across all levels. So all to say very supportive of this theme both personally and in my professional capacity.</b></p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>When you were talking about the issue of women putting food on the table, it got me thinking to the view that there are a lot of women who work in the agricultural sector, but the emphasis is they work in the agricultural sector putting the food on the table as opposed to owning the land and I think that also comes to have a play in issues of sustainability and empowerment of women.</p>
<p><b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b></p>	<p><b>That's the story of a long process, so they need to own the land so they have tenure, they have security for their future for their families, but also what we want to do I think is to ensure that women are part of that whole business and economic cycle. So you grow the food, you want to be part of selling the food, the profit taking, the reinvesting, I mean I think what we've seen is that economies grow when women are fully participating, so we want to absolutely make sure that women have that tenure and I know that's an important issue in large parts of Southern Africa, but we also want to make sure that women are participating in the full range of economic activities, so going beyond that to making sure that as value is added to that food, as profit that can be taken, that women are getting their share of that and are able to reinvest in their businesses and to ensure that the policies of their government are supportive of that. So this is a long spectrum that we need to be active in and certainly from Canada's point of view we do a lot of work with women owned businesses for exactly that reason and it's about advocating for policies that support them, but it's also about creating mentorship and support networks that allow women to succeed with each other and I know there's great work being done on that in South Africa, but it's important I think that when we talk about food security that we look at the full spectrum of that; <b>food on the table, food in the shop, money in the bank.</b></b></p>
<p>DR. MALKA</p>	<p>You've demonstrated the whole value chain and you've also emphasised, for</p>

	<p>me, the issue of sustainability and I think taking into consideration that this is a United Nations construct of International Women’s Day and furthermore there are the sustainable development goals. Goal 5 of the UN’s SDGs is specifically about gender equality; for the benefit of our listeners I am just going to highlight some of those targets. So one; end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Two; eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private sphere. Three; recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public service, infrastructure, social protection policies and a fourth one is ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. From your perspective, what types of actions can individuals take to help achieve some of these targets for the benefit of all women?</p>
<p><b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b></p>	<p><b>There’s a lot there and there’s a lot of work to be done on all of them. I would say, look, I think one of the strengths of women is their ability to identify an issue and work cooperatively to address it and to be determined in attaining their goal and I would add probably onto that, you know, multi-tasking and doing many things at once and I think with these elements of article 5 you have mentioned, in a lot of ways we need to tackle them all at once. I would say that what women need to do first and foremost is advocate for what their rights are and what their needs are, they need to work together to do that, they need to make themselves heard and a great way of doing that is getting into those decision making tables, some of those may be government, some of those may be in business, but we need to make sure all of us, that we are part of the processes that are establishing the policies by which we live and I think that’s something we really have to catch up on, women across the world for a long time. You know one of the things on all of them, I think that is quite shocking is violence against women. I think we really also as mothers and sisters, you know, we need to do our part in educating within our own family respect for women, you know every man has a mother and so some of these things can begin at home, they don’t have to all be out there, if it isn’t in your personality to want to be publicly advocating for these things, do your part within your home and raise your sons to respect women and we’ll go a long ways with that. So there’s a lot that can be done but it all begins with our own commitment to ourselves and to each other.</b></p>
<p><b>DR. MALKA</b></p>	<p>Great points. As this is International Women’s Day and we’re having a showcase of international women from around the world, please can you share with us a couple of trailblazers that stand out for you from a Canadian perspective?</p>
<p><b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b></p>	<p><b>Well I’m happy to say there’s quite a few and actually we’re still blazing trails, there’s always more that we can do. In my own department, you know, just an event yesterday for International Women’s Day celebrating my boss who is the first deputy foreign minister woman in Canada, so look, there’s always glass ceilings that we can break, but I mean I think kind of looking back I would touch on one that I think is really that anchor of women’s ability to affect public policy and then another one that I think will resonate particularly for your audience in Africa. So the one I would, sort of in my mind, that really sort of started us on the right road, her name was Agnes Macphail and she was our first woman member of parliament and that was in 1921 and so you know that was not long after women got the vote and that was a hard road for us, for</b></p>

	<p>Canadians and it has been for women elsewhere, but look you know, you need to be able to be part of government in order to put in place the laws, the regulations, the women friendly support of policies, you need to be the voice at the table to have what women need considered in public policy, so I'll put Agnes on there. The other one is actually particularly is a proud one for me, and that's Viola Desmond and Viola Desmond was a Canadian of African origin and in 1946 she refused to give up her seat in the theatre in an area that was designated for whites. Segregation wasn't an official policy in Canada but I am embarrassed and ashamed to say that there were locations where racial groups were separated; she did not give up her seat and was arrested for it. Her work in establishing not only the strong voice for women, but that question of inter-sectionality and race for women was recognised very recently, about two years ago, when she became the face of our ten dollar bill, so now she has put on there a whole trail blazing was celebrated and so now very time you go into a shop, pay for something with your ten dollar bill, you have a moment to remember her particular courage on behalf of women and on behalf of black women in Canada.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>Those are great mentions, I mean but the first one that you mentioned, Agnes, 1921, we're talking 101 years ago and it just keeps shocking me the fact that these things keep taking time, that we have to go through this cycle of a century to get progress, but if it wasn't for their sacrifices we wouldn't be in the positions we're in today.</p>
DM SANDRA MCCARDELL	<p>Absolutely not, I mean I have benefitted by all of those who walked the roads ahead of us and there are so many ways that we need to put women in the forefront, you know, I'm sure you saw that photo very recently at the Munich Security Conference, a table of CEOs, not a single women, not a single person of colour at this extraordinary large table of these sort of leaders of industry; that's absurd, in 2022? It's just unacceptable and so look I would say that we all need to push each other forward and to find examples like that to motivate us to put us in the boardrooms, the parliaments, any area where decisions are taken so that our voice is there and that what women need is taken into account.</p>
DR. MALKA	<p>And lastly, as we close out our call today in celebration of International Women's Day, can you use this platform to convey a message to women and girls that are listening to the show?</p>
DM SANDRA MCCARDELL	<p>Well I have to say you've gotten me very excited about pushing women forward to demand their rights, I am going to go in that direction, I mean there is all kinds of really inspirational things I could have said, but look I think maybe the first thing I will do is call in women to believe in themselves. First, you know, I think there's something about our character that can make us doubt ourselves a little bit more, I think if there's somebody else whose better placed to take on an issue or tackle a problem, you know, I will always say start with believing in yourself, in your voice and in your right to be heard. The second thing maybe I'll say is well we've got to help each other, this really is a sisterhood and we, as you were just saying, we got to where we are because others went before us, this is really about you know, a lift up those who need it, it's a hand to those who need to be pulled forward and upward and so we really need to help ourselves and support each other. The other thing that, I would be in remiss, I just can't miss the opportunity, is the education, you know to be able to effect change you need to have the tools to do it and education is just the foundation of your ability to engage intelligently and effectively in the world and it is the key as well to maybe my last point, which is</p>

	<b>economic independence, you know, some of those things we were talking about whether it's violence against women or you know the ability to work when you have children to care for, you know, there's a lot around it and it's about having financial independence and so believe in yourself, go forward, help your sisters, use your brain, fill your pocket book.</b>
DR. MALKA	What a great message, thank you so much, it's been a pleasure having you on the show again and wishing you all the best of luck in your new venture and Happy Women's Day!
<b>DM SANDRA MCCARDELL</b>	<b>A very Happy International Women's Day to you too, it's such a pleasure to reconnect to friends and the sisters in South Africa, can I say I really miss you all, take care, all the best.</b>
DR. MALKA	Thank you. That was the Assistant Deputy Minister for Europe, Arctic, Middle East, Maghreb, in Canada, Sandra Mccardell.
	<b>PROGRAMME END.</b>