Promoting the SADC Model Law through Parliamentary Action
A Hot Day In Southern Africa

OOH, OOH! It’s arrived, Fanaka! Just in time for the honourable member’s speech!

... And this, my fellow members, is how we’ll make sure every girl in our country has the right to Wait to Wed.

Mmm. I like it. So how did she become such a strong advocate for ending child marriage?

I’m putting this on the veranda so everyone can watch the special debate on ending child marriages with our very own champion, Ms Dalia Cumbe!

... And this, my fellow members, is how we’ll make sure every girl in our country has the right to Wait to Wed.

Yup. Parliament is coming to our village!

When she was still a provincial councillor, there was a village with many, many girls married to older men.

When she saw this, she demanded a special debate

Cumbe demands special debate to end child marriage

Mmm. I like it. So how did she become such a strong advocate for ending child marriage?

Power to Girls via Parliament

Power to Girls via
So how did she go about it?

So when she became an MP...

...she decided to tackle the issue head on, right at the top of government.

Now where’s the SADC Model Law...

...I want to compare our laws with it so I can see where the gaps are and where I need to focus.

Let’s see. What is the situation in my country around child marriages...

...the numbers, the laws, the policies.

So how did she go about it?

Now where’s the SADC Model Law...

...I want to compare our laws with it so I can see where the gaps are and where I need to focus.

So when she became an MP...

...she decided to tackle the issue head on, right at the top of government.

That’s clever! Simple, but effective.

Once she knew everything she needed to know...

...she started building alliances and making sure that she spoke about the Model Law whenever she could.

Ah, I remember...

She also partnered with us as a civil society organisation. She knew how to reach out to as many stakeholders as she could find, high and low, far and wide...

If I remember correctly, she really lobbied to end child marriage during the International Day of the Girl Child in parliament?

My fellow MPs...

I’m happy to announce that 70 of you have signed the petition against child marriages.

And she didn’t stop there! She introduced debates in parliament on child welfare, and marriages, and education for girls.

This kind of co-operation among different political parties is unheard of.

I thank you on behalf of all the girls who now face a better future!

International Day of the Girl Child
Because she belongs to several inter-parliamentary organisations and associations, she's had these dialogues with people all over the world. She's also made sure she holds the government to account.

... who will be giving us her personal testimony about her experience of being in a child marriage... and how her future has changed for the better when she was able to leave that marriage.

So I beg you, please abolish all child marriages so that girls like me have the support from the whole of society to choose to wait to wed.

I know! She's really got the conversation going on a national and even regional level!

Even further than that! Because she belongs to several inter-parliamentary organisations and associations, she's had these dialogues with people all over the world.

End.
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