

## TIPS FOR ADVANCING IN YOUR POLITICAL PARTY

- Meet and get to know your local political party leaders. Tell them what your political ambitions are. Make sure they know that you support the party, and that you encourage others to support the party too.
- Identify men in your political party who are supportive of your goals and develop good working relationships with them.
- You have to be more honest, more sincere and more hardworking than any male elected representative or party activist. You have to work hard to prove yourself capable and win the trust of others.
- Never engage in any activities that might be seen as dishonest. Never misuse any public or party funds for your own or your relatives' personal gain.
- Never accept gifts, money or special favors that you will be expected to return someday through your influence as a party leader or elected official.
- Make an extra effort to show that you are a service-oriented politician.
- Get involved in your political party's women's wing, if there is one. The members of the women's wing can provide you with organized support when you need to exert pressure on the party. You can also gain leadership experience by working within a wing. The party realizes the value of women who are organized at election time.
- If there is not a women's organization in your political party, start one. Begin by networking and meeting with women in your party.
- Don't limit yourself to the activities of the women's wing: get involved in the main body of the party as well. Keep in mind that the real power generally lies within the party structure where men occupy important party positions.
- Be involved in one of your political party's committees whether at the national, provincial, or local level. You can work your way up within the party to higher-level committees in the future. Make friends. Volunteer to take on responsibilities and demonstrate your hard work. Gain support and experience.
- Encourage more women to become involved in your political party and help them gain seats on various committees. Be a mentor. Work to build a movement of women!
- Let your party and your voters know what you are doing in your community. It is important to promote yourself and get credit for your efforts. Don't rely on someone else to promote your achievements; but if they do, it's an added advantage.