



*Opening Remarks*

*At*

*Commissioning Ceremony of the Anomena Ventures ECOWAS Women's  
Business Fund Project*

*By*

*Ms. Monica Maduekwe*

*Programme Coordinator  
ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access  
(ECOW-GEN)  
ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)*

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), I am very pleased to welcome you to the commissioning ceremony of the ANOMENA-ECOWAS Women's Business Fund project.

I would like to particularly extend the compliments of the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Mahama Kappiah, who would have wanted to be present at this occasion but could not. He sends his best wishes for the launch of this project.

Also, allow me to congratulate ANOMENA Ventures for the excellent job done in the organization of this ceremony. You will agree with me that a lot of hard work went into the planning and, now, the execution of this event.

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today is a proud day for us at ECREEE; considering that this journey with ANOMENA Ventures started since 2014, when ECREEE launched the pilot phase of its ECOWAS Women's Business Fund, choosing Senegal and Ghana as pilot countries to test this initiative.

The initiative was established to enable women entrepreneurs with innovative energy business ideas to transform these ideas into real and commercially viable enterprises. And the fact that we are here today is a mark of success for the ECOWAS Women's Business Fund Initiative.

It is also a significant achievement for women-led energy businesses, as this shows that with the right support women can be successful project developers and good business managers, contributing actively to the green energy revolution in West Africa.

Indeed, this project holds so much promises and I see other women-led energy projects starting up because of this project, in Ghana and the continent as a whole. It is our dream that women will not just be recognized as users, but as producers and suppliers of energy services in the ECOWAS region.

**Distinguished Guests,**

The Project on "Promotion of ANOMENA Improved LPG Stoves as a Clean Energy Initiative for Cooking" is of relevance and strategically designed to contribute to the objectives and targets of the ECOWAS Policies for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Both Policies work towards universal access to clean cooking energy by 2030, foreseeing that 26% of the ECOWAS population would have access to Liquefied Petroleum Gas for cooking. Furthermore, it contributes to the goals and

objectives of the Draft ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, which works to create a level playing field for both men and women to contribute towards the region's goal of universal energy access.

Such a project that is designed to bring workable solutions to the energy challenges in the region, while solving the issue of gender inequality (as women will be employed in the supply chain of the business), are the sort of projects we hope will be replicated in Ghana and in other ECOWAS Countries. As we believe that the energy sector is well positioned to be a vehicle for the region's transition to an inclusive and sustainable development.

**Dear All,**

Let me conclude by reiterating that the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is committed to supporting women entrepreneurs to gain the necessary skills to be competitive as producers and suppliers in the energy sector. We are committed to addressing the energy challenges in the region, in a manner that benefits the men and women of ECOWAS.

Thank you for your kind attention.