



REMARKS

Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa

Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa

at the

Launch of the Samoa Project on Enabling Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship

6pm on 30 July 2019, Tanoa Tusitala Hotel

Honourable Minsiters

High Commissioner of Canada to Samoa

UN Resident Coordinator

Head of the UN ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentleman

I am pleased to join you all in launching this project whose aim is to help strengthen an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs and increase their access to finance through innovative financing approaches and use of ICT.

Samoa remains committed to the aim of this project, which is to support the growth of women entrepreneurs as a strategy to reduce poverty, improve social well-being and sustainable economic growth. We also recognize that entrepreneurship is one

of the major pathways for empowering women and striving towards equality. Therefore I stress the importance of all the key stakeholders working closely in a coordinated manner to ensure the assistance and solutions from this project reach those who need it the most and that there is due consideration given to our women in rural communities.

Let me conclude by acknowledging with appreciation the support of the Government of Canada and assistance of UN ESCAP that has led to the launch of this important project. I wish all those to be involved success in implementing this project and I look forward to hearing about the results and impacts of this project on the economic empowerment of our women.

Soifua