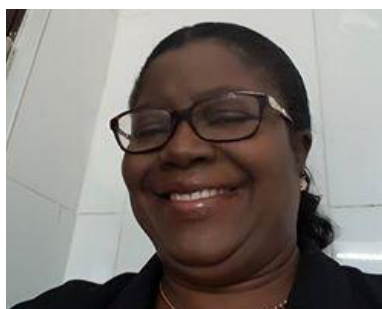




WINLPG

Women in LPG



Betty Amechi Ugonna

**General Manager Sales and Marketing
NNPC Retail Ltd
Nigeria**

“I AM FULFILLED WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY AND MY ENERST DESIRE IS TO SEE ALL WOMEN ESPECIALLY THE LOCAL WOMEN CONVERT TO THE USE OF LPG AS COOKING FUEL BOTH AT HOMES AND FOR EATERIES AS THEY SERVE MILLIONS OF NIGERIAN WORKFORCE WHO RELY ON THEIR FOOD EVERY DAY.”

Betty Amechi Ugonna

Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

I am Mrs Betty Amechi Ugonna, General Manager Sales and Marketing NNPC Retail Ltd, a subsidiary of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) I studied at University of Ilorin, Enugu State University of Science and Technology and University of Abuja where I obtained my degree and Post Graduate Certificates.

I joined NNPC IN 1987 as a Process Engineer for PHRC and since have worked in several Departments of the Corporation where I have been exposed to acquire several skills . My posting to head LPG Sales as Deputy Manager in 2008 exposed me to something that has left an indellidle mark in my entire life and career. Few years into heading LPG Sales in my company and studying the Nigerian LPG Market vis a vis the Energy Mix of the country, I discovered that only 5% of the population is using LPG as cooking fuel in a country that produces about three million tonnes a year and the main reason for the low consumption is lack of awreness of the benefits of the use of the product as the most efficient energy for cooking. The passion to grow the business and better the lives of the citizenry led to the birth of an Non Governmental Organization (NGO) called Gas to Health Innitiative with main objective to create awrenes on the use of LPG across the country on the platform of distributing the appliances free of charge to local food vendors and educating them on how to use it wisely and efficiently. currently we are on a project entitled Operation Convert Mama to the Use of LPG (who Cooks it Feels the Brunt, the Environment Feels the Heat). I have come to realise that to effectively participate in every segment of the LPG business value chain, you must have passion for the usage and for the lives of people that are being exposed to dangers of using other sources of energy to cook especially fire woods and kerosene not to talk about the effects on the environment.

My contributions to the growth of LPG usage in Nigerian is overwhelming especially through the awareness campaign being carried out by the NGO through which we have distributed over 5,000 cylinders and burners free of charge.

As a person, I enjoy teaching and spending time with the youths. I am also an author and have written several books among which are ‘Your Choice, Your Future and Your Life’ and also a book on LPG entitled: ‘Who Cooks it Feels the Brunt and the Environment Feels the Heat’.

“Humility is tested when power is entrusted”

Betty Amechi Ugonna

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today?

To ensure that I put smile on someone's face today and contribute to disseminating information about the use of LPG, its benefits and dangers of being exposed to the use of other fossil and solid fuels like kerosene and firewood for cooking.

Did you have a mentor and how did this help?

I love looking up to successful women who have managed to get to the top in our establishment considering the hurdles one has to pass through to get there. This has helped a lot, especially in cases when faced with challenges, I always ask myself, what will my mentor have done in this case, this gives me time to think and act wisely.

Describe your Pathway?

I grew up believing that I could fill the gap of a male child in my family haven been born into a family of all girls but one boy who hapened to be the last. So I found myself with that dream being fulfilled in a male dominated industry - oil and gas. Employed as a process engineer over the years I have worked in several department of the corporation as follows: through as Production Programmer in the refinery, Cost Control Engineer, Project Supervisor, LPG Sales Manager and now General Manager Sales and Marketing in NNPC Retail Ltd. The path was a not easy at all, but with hard work, absolute committment and selfless attitude to work to achieve maximum output encased in credibilty, I have been able to scale through a lot of challenges.

What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership to me is a way of life and it is all about trust and relationship. It is about having the passionate ability to respect others especially their views and appreciating in love thier contribution to your life as a boss, as a friend, as a subordinate and as a customer.

Did you face any specific challenges?

Life in itself is full of challenges not to talk of in a working environment dominated by men. Having a balanced work life has been a serious challenge because as a woman you must not be found wanting in any assignment so you put in extra hours and efforts to prove that your are better off to handle the task.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

Desire to passionately impart someone's life positively- many are being exposed to dangers of using solid fuels to cook due to pollution

Focus on your goal and who you are and with these your dreams and goal will not be drown by others opinion

Be sensitive to your environment and have the ability to act promptly to your customers need to ensure and guarantee safety and sustainability of supply.



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Women in LPG Global Network

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