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TOWARDS enabling access to comprehensive affordable maternity services for more residents of Lekki and environs, a 24-hour Maternity Home has opened at the St. Kizito Clinic, in Jakande Housing Estate, Lekki.

The initiative which is a joint-venture of Loving Gaze-St. Kizito Clinic, with support from SNEPCo and NNPC, comprises nine trained and experienced midwives and a gynaecologist. The space exclusively dedicated to the Maternity Home is thought to welcome women in a comfortable, sterilized, warm and professional atmosphere.

The Maternity Home is a well equipped, up-to-date facility, comprising waiting room, delivery room, labour room with a new ultrasound machine, and standby 45KVA generating set for power supply round the clock.

In her view, Medical Director, St Kizito Clinic, Dr Alda Gemmani, noted: "Our Maternity Home wants, first of all, to welcome pregnant women and their new born with love and care. Each is a unique person living a special moment, they deserve the best loving and professional care.

St. Kizito Clinic has provided basic health care for the unprivileged communities in Lagos for the last 25 years, offering daily consultations, treatment of common and communicable diseases among others. But we also always cared for women, with a gynaecologist care, ante and post natal

service, immunisation, pharmacy dispensing and children nutrition centre.

"In all these years we noticed that most of the pregnant women we assisted, opted to give birth either through Traditional Birth Assistance or home birth, and this is the case for most women in the country.

In 2013, the WHO found that only 4 in 10 births were delivered with assistance of a skilled provide, placing Nigeria among the countries with the highest maternity mortality rate.

This evidence, along with the demands of the women we assisted, convinced us to open the Maternity Home. Our objective is to offer professional, caring and loving maternity and delivery services to pregnant women, of an affordable cost. We welcome women with low risk delivery, while women with high-risk delivery are referred.