

NEWS

'Why Dental Health Is Yet To Receive Attention

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AS part of its strategic plan to tackle oral diseases, which represent a major public health problem in the country, the management of St Kizito Clinic, Lagos, has partnered with Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO) to set up a dental unit.

Medical Director of St Kizito Clinic Lagos, Alda Gemmani, while speaking at the inauguration of the dental unit in Lagos, said dental health issues are yet to receive priority attention due to competitive health demands resulting in high prevalence of the consequences of poor oral health.

Gemmani disclosed that periodontal disease and dental care are two major oral health problems facing Nigerians. He listed other dental health problems to include malocclusion, traumatised anterior teeth, dental fluorosis and oral tumours.

He revealed that the clinic's daily consultations revealed poor oral health and dental hygiene among adults and children, adding that the phenomenon does not only cause pain but loss of working hours, leading to reduced income for affected families.

On why the dental unit was established, Gemmani said: "The clinic started preventive dental services and educational programmes among the patients and students of Ilasan-Jakande,

Lekki; Idi-Araba, Mushin and Oreta, Ikorodu environs. So the need of a dental unit to address the patients' needs grew due to the lack of an accessible and affordable dental clinic in these areas."

The medical director commended Shell Nigeria

Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCo), for partnering the clinic to inaugurate the Dental Unit, which he noted will provide oral and dental care to the local communities. "The prompt support of NNPC/SNEPCo through this dental unit will enable essential preventive and curative dental services, reduce teeth decay and loss as well as prevent dental complications that could be potentially life threatening amongst 70,000 patients and school children yearly," he said.