The Italian President of the Chamber of Deputies, Hon. Laura Boldrini, on an official visit to Nigeria, recently visited Loving Gaze, an Italian NGO that manages St Kizito Clinic & SS Peter & Paul Nursery & Primary School in Lekki, Lagos. In a keynote address at the occasion, Hon. Boldrini, who was accompanied by Italian Ambassador, H. E. Dr. Fabio Rustico and the Consul General of Italy, H. E. Andrea Pompermaier, said fundamental European values focus on cooperation, respect for human rights and dignity. She expressed gratitude for the efforts made to support the local communities in upholding education of youths.

While welcoming Hon. Boldrini, Ms. Barbara Pepoli, General Manager of Loving Gaze said: "In 2006, we touched the lives of 60,000 people in Nigeria. We helped men and women to get the health care they needed and young children to continue their primary education. We also helped communities and groups save pennies a day that added up to real, lasting change. "But all this has been built through the hard work of our local staff and the generous donors in Nigeria and beyond, who supported us from the beginning, when we arrived in Lagos 25 years ago. AVSI Foundation, an Italian NGO active in more than 30 countries, arrived in Lagos in 1988 and, with the support of the Italian Development Cooperation aid programme, started the development of two St Kizito Clinics in Lagos, one in Lekki and another in Ibi-Araba. "Our first school was actually a bamboo school on the lagoon’s shores in 2003. Thanks to the European Development Funds (EDF), we established the SS Peter & Paul Nursery & Primary School, which now has 450 students. In 2007, we completed the construction of the St John School in Ikorodu, Lagos. Till today, Italian AVSI donors are supporting 300 students in St John School and most of our students in SS Peter & Paul School."