Laura Boldrini Urges Italians To Uphold European Fundamental Values

...Seeks More Care For Vulnerable Communities

Hon Laura Boldrini, Italian President of the Chamber of Deputies has concluded her working visit to Nigeria, coiling on Italian communities in the country to uphold European fundamental values of cooperation, respect for human rights and dignity.

She also called on group and non-profit organisations of the Italian origin to continue and sustain their care and love for vulnerable populations and communities in the host country, Nigeria.

Laura Boldrini made the remark during a reception by Loving Gaze to St. Kizito Clinic as well as SS Peter & Paul Nursery & Primary School Lekki, Lagos. Loving Gaze is an independent not-for-profit organisation with 23 years of experience in Nigeria, and serves the unprivileged and most vulnerable communities in Lagos and Taraba State.

Boldrini, who praised the Italian community effort in supporting the most vulnerable communities in Lagos, expressed her gratitude for the long-term and sustainable projects being carried out by the Italian communities especially efforts made to support youth education. Barbara Pepoli, general manager; Pepoli Loving Gaze, thanking the visiting delegation said “your visit is an important event for our community. Our purpose is to serve with care, joy and professionalism people in need, to ignite hope and seeds for growth. But we could not bring change in people's life without the continuous support of the Nigerian and Italian authorities, the local and international private and corporate donors and the International Cooperation Agencies and NGOs who trust our work and sustain our efforts."

“In 2016 we touched the lives of 50,000 people in Nigeria. We helped men and women to get the health care they need, young children to continue their primary education, we helped communities groups save pennies a day that added up to real, lasting change. But all these have been built through the hard work of our local staff and the generous donators in Nigeria and beyond who supported us from the beginning, when we arrived in Lagos twenty-five years ago.”

Dignitaries that attended the closing ceremony included the Ambassador of Italy in Abuja, H.E. Dr Fulvio Rustico, the Consul General of Italy in Lagos, H.E. Andrea Fonpermaier, Loving Gaze founder and general manager; Ms Barbara Pepoli; Doctor Aida Genmani, St Kizito Clinic Medical Director, the Nigerian medical staff, SS Peter & Paul Nursery and Primary School students and teachers.

Boldrini is the President of the Italian Lower Chamber since 2013. Before that, from 1993 until 1996, she worked at the World Food Programme (WFP) as the Italian spokesperson. From 1998 to 2012 she was spokesperson of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for whom she also coordinated public information campaigns in Southern Europe. In recent years she has specifically dealt with the influx of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean. She has taken part in numerous missions to crisis spots, including the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Caucasus, Angola and Rwanda.