

# Israeli Embassy sponsors Nigerian child for heart surgery

By Chinyere Amalu

**T**HE Israeli Embassy in Nigeria has offered to sponsor a three-year-old Mamufha Midegbevevesho Aiyebelehin, to Israel for heart surgery.

Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Moshe Ram, has since contacted Mr. Murphy Ojo Aiyebelehin, Mide's father, for necessary preparation for the trip to Israel.

The quick response was as a result of human angle story published in the media. (Mide's heart-rending story) on the three year old boy, who has lived with a hole in his heart from birth. The organisation will also carry out Mide's heart surgery.

Briefing newsmen in Abuja on the forthcoming exhibition of "Save a Child's Heart", an Israeli-based Foundation that has been saving children's lives by working to improve the quality of cardiac care for children. Ram said the idea is to help Nigerian children who are suffering from heart problem.

He said it is also a way of moving out from usual political, economic and cultural relationship existing between Nigeria and Israel to humanitarian assistance to Nigerian citizens, pointing out that the exhibition would showcase 15-years activities of "Save a Child's Heart (SACH)", since 1995 when it was established in Israel, adding that all the budget for the Israeli national day celebration would be channelled into Mide's heart operation.

"Although I have had the intention of embarking on such charity foundation as Ambassador, the story of the 3-year old boy moved me the more. So I have contacted the Heart Foundation NGO in Israel and they have accepted to take up the case.

"We are starting with the 3-year old boy, hoping to extend it to others. This is part of

our humanitarian help to Nigerian children with such cases. More than 2,000 children from over 30 countries around the world with heart problem have been saved by the foundation.

"The whole idea is to show that in as much as we are involved in politics, we are also concerned in what is happening in Nigeria. We want to be part of what is happening in Ni-

geria, especially in healthcare delivery.

"This is the first time we are going to celebrate our national day in a different way in collaboration with children to help render service to them. We are partnering with the National Hospital in exchanging views on various issues involving health care problem", he added.

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