

Israel to treat Nigerian children with heart diseases

Oluwole Josiah, Abuja

THE Israeli Embassy in Nigeria has commenced a programme that would ensure that poor Nigerian children with heart diseases are flown to Israel for treatment.

Speaking to journalists in Abuja on Wednesday, the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Moshe Ram, said the children would be identified and attended to on a case-by-case basis within the limits of the

embassy's resources.

He said the embassy would be working with an Israeli-based foundation, Save A Child's Heart, which had already helped over 2,000 children with heart diseases from 30 countries.

According to Ram, the first phase of the programme would be an exhibition holding in Abuja next week which would see cardiologists from Israel and Nigeria partnering on how to further promote cardiac care for

children.

He noted that the exhibition which would be entitled, "Save the Child's Heart" would feature a workshop at the National Hospital, Abuja, where members of the Nigerian Medical Association and the visiting Israeli experts would interact.

He said, for a start, the embassy would assist three-year-old Master Mamutha Aiyebelahin, who is suffering from a protracted heart disease,

for a surgery in Israel.

According to Ram, the medical papers of the boy were sent to Israel for scrutiny by the foundation and the medical experts and they have confirmed that they were ready for the operation.

"We are in touch with the Save A Child's Heart in Israel and they have not only confirmed that they can do it, they are willing to do it. The boy and an adult would be living for Israel by the end of April," he said.

THE PUNCH

09-04-09

PAGE 8