

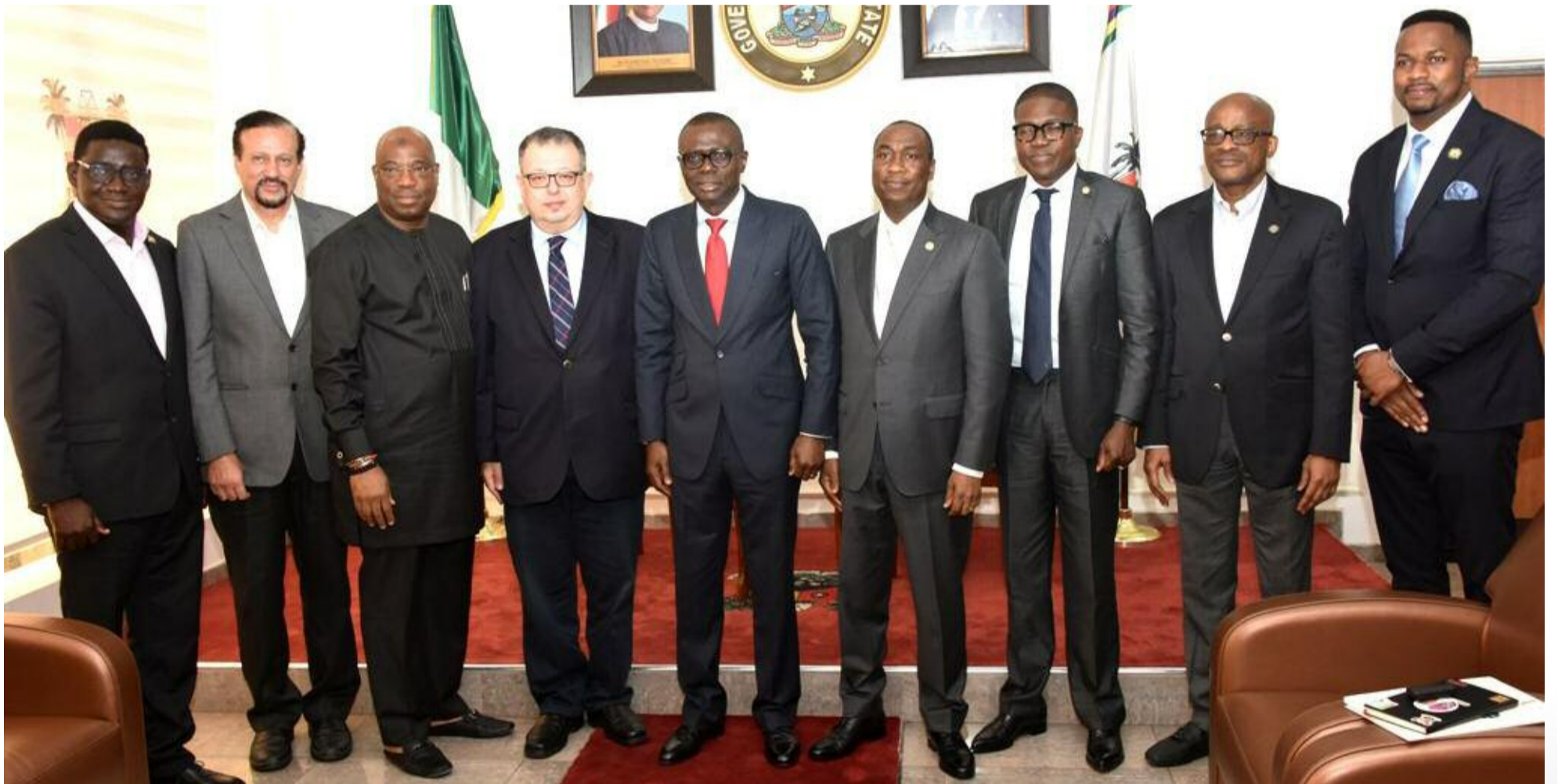


ITTF CHALLENGE PLUS NIGERIA OPEN

A daily publication of the ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open

August 8, 2019 | Day 2

We're committed to Nigeria Open – Lagos Gov, Sanwo-Olu



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu (fifth from left); Deputy Governor, Femi Hamzat; Head of Service Hakeem Muri-Okunola; Executive Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Dr Kweku Tandoh; Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Foreign Relations and Diaspora, Jermaine Sanwo-Olu (right); Director General, LSSC, Gafar Bolowotan (left); President, African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), Khaled El-Salhy; Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC) Nigeria Open, Wahid Enitan Oshodi and Executive Vice President, International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), Dr Alaa Meshref... during the ITTF team visit to the Governor ahead of the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open on Tuesday August 6, 2019 in Lagos, Nigeria .

LAGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has stressed that sport is key to youth development, even as he reaffirmed the state's commitment to the annual ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open.

Receiving the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) delegation led by its Executive Vice President, Dr. Alaa Meshref in his Alausa office, Governor Sanwo-Olu said hosting table tennis tournaments has put Lagos on the world map with players across the world eager to be part of the competitions.

Nigeria Open is the third tournament

in the last one week to be staged in Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu said table tennis has been developing in leaps and bounds since the start of the Nigeria Open few years ago. He singled out Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the tournament, Wahid Enitan Oshodi, as a pride to the state whose commitment and resourcefulness has continued to raise the profile of the sport in Africa.

The Governor said: "We want to continue to raise the bar so that other countries can continue to come to Lagos to compete. We will not relent in our efforts to empower our youths, which is

one of our main campaign promises. We will support our youth to actualise their dreams through sports.

"Wahid Oshodi has made Lagos State proud. He has taken table tennis to greater height in Nigeria and Africa at large. Our commitment to the sport will not dwindle and we assure the ITTF that we will do our best to make the tournament more glamorous in the coming years," Sanwo-Olu stressed.

According to Dr Meshref, Lagos has become the home of table tennis in Africa, having hosted some of the major tournaments in the ITTF

Calendar. "We are proud to be associated with Lagos State and we want thank you for your support. This goes to show that you are indeed a sports-loving governor. ITTF sees Nigeria Open as one of the major tournaments in the world and we will continue to do our best to support the tournament," he said.

Aside President, ATTF, Khaled El-Salhy and LOC Chairman Oshodi, others at the event included Deputy Governor, Femi Hamzat, Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, Executive Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Dr. Kweku Tandoh and Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Foreign Relations and Diaspora, Jermaine Sanwo-Olu.

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ITTF team visit to Governor Sanwo-Olu



Faces at the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Nigeria Open Press Conference



Secretary General, Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), Olabanji Oladapo (left); Executive Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Dr Kweku Tandoh and President, Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF), Engr Ishaku Tikon



NTTF President, Engr Ishaku Tikon (left); Mrs Aderonke Adebajo of Prime Atlantic Limited; Aruna Quadri; Managing Director, Delanyard Points, Gbolahan Onibuje; NOC Secretary General, Olabanji Oladapo and Director General, LSSC, Gafar Bolowotan



Senegal's Ibrahima Diaw (left) with Aruna Quadri