

Soludo Speaks on Nigeria, Africa at Pennsylvania Varsity

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Professor Charles Soludo, will, beginning from tomorrow (9th November), continue his campaign across the world on Nigeria's economic reform as he addresses conferences in Nairobi, Kenya, and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, United States, where he will be the keynote speaker at the 2006 Wharton African Business Forum of the University.

At Pennsylvania, on Saturday, 11th November, 2006, Professor Soludo is expected to speak on the topic: **“Trade and Investment in Africa: Enhancing Relationships to Improve Net Worth”**. The triple-winner of Global and African Central Banker Governor of the Year is expected to discuss Nigeria and Africa by drawing from personal experience and faith in great potential of Africa to play a more dominant role in the global economy. He will also shed some light on NEPAD and other new partnerships being developed across the continent and how they can foster development, as well as the obstacles that he faced, as a young Nigeria Economics Professor, in putting in place reforms in Nigeria, and winning his credibility in the international financial community. He will also highlight ways in which young African professionals can get involved to help increase this impact and change the image of Africa in the 21st century. He is expected to set the tone for the overall conference message.

In Nairobi, Professor Soludo will also speak at the *Africa Investor Project Summit*, in which he will share Nigeria's reform experience under the theme: **“Financial Market Reforms and Capital Market Development”**. Participants will focus on the Nigerian case study to learn how the regulatory reforms which have revitalized banks and capital markets in Nigeria can be replicated across the African continent. He is also expected to dwell on Nigeria's grand plan to be among the 20 largest economies in the world by the Year 2020. The programme tagged Financial System Strategy 2020 (FSS 2020) is also intended to build Nigeria into Africa's financial hub by 2020.

Professor Soludo is the immediate past winner of the *Africa Investor's* Smart Regulator Award

Professor Soludo has in recent times been inundated with requests for speaking engagements from around on account of what observers have referred to as his refreshing courage, leadership and revolutionary approach to developing countries' economic re-engineering programmes. It has been the position of the Professor of Economics that Africans, and indeed, developing countries seeking to banish poverty and grow their economies must look inwards, improve their institutions, and adopt a home grown approach to economic reform instead of relying on handouts from developed countries. To this end he has been in the forefront of campaigns for the homecoming of African professionals if the 21st century is to be the century of Africa.