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Special Release

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OBITUARY

LATE PROFESSOR SILAS KALU ONWUKA, DVM, PhD, FCVSN, FNIIA

(12 August, 1949 - 20 April, 2017)

The Vice – Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS, announces with a deep sense of loss, the transition to eternity of Professor Silas Kalu Onwuka. The sad event occurred on 20 April, 2017.

He was born on 12 August, 1949 in his home town, Ozu-Abam, Aro-Ohafia Local Government Area of Abia (then Imo) State. He began his education in 1956 at the Holy Trinity Anglican Primary School, Kafanchan, Kaduna State and later attended Government College, Umuahia, Abia State, from 1963 to 1967, and from 1970-1971. He attended the University of Ibadan from 1973 on the East Central State Scholarship and obtained the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1978. He did his National Youth Service in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy from 1978 to 1979. On completion of the NYSC, he started his Masters programme in Veterinary Anatomy on the Federal Government Scholarship, completing it in 1981. Prof Onwuka was a recipient of the Commonwealth Universities Commission Scholarship for his doctoral studies and was awarded the Ph.D. degree from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1989 where he worked on Orf virus pathogenesis in the skin. He was a Fellow of the College of Veterinary Surgeons of Nigeria.

The late Professor of Veterinary Anatomy had an enriching lecturing career at the University of Ibadan where he taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels for over 30 years. Professor Onwuka joined the Department of Veterinary Anatomy as a Youth Corper in 1978 and was employed as Lecturer Grade II in 1979 and promoted Lecturer Grade I in 1982, Senior Lecturer in 1991 and Professor in 2001.

He was Visiting Professor to Federal Universities of Agriculture at Makurdi and Umudike where he trained the first generation of lecturers in Veterinary Anatomy. He had also been an External Examiner in Veterinary Anatomy to several Veterinary Schools in Nigeria and a Faculty to the College of Veterinary Surgeons of Nigeria.

Aside his academic commitments, late Professor Onwuka served the University of Ibadan in several capacities including Head, Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan for many years; Assistant Warden, Independence Hall among other administrative duties.

He is survived by his wife, Chinyere, children, grandchildren and relatives. May his soul rest in peace (Amen).

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