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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR FESTUS OLANIPEKUN OSIYEMI **16 JULY, 1933 TO 16 APRIL, 2016**

The Vice Chancellor, Professor A. I. Olayinka announces the transition of Professor Festus Olanipekun Osiyemi, which sad event occurred on Saturday, 16 April, 2016.

Late Professor Osiyemi was born in Lagos on 16 July, 1933 to late Pa Joel Osijinrin Osiyemi, a business tycoon and late Mama Elizabeth Adejoke Idowu Osiyemi. He had his primary education at Holy Trinity School, Ebute Ero, Lagos and St John's School, Aroloya, Lagos. He was admitted to the C.M.S. Grammar School, Lagos from 1949. On the completion of the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations, he attended the University College, London from 1959 to 1962 when he obtained the Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry. He subsequently had his Master's Degree from the University of Manchester, U.K in 1964 and later had his Ph.D. (Drug Metabolism) from the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ibadan in 1968. He was one of the first four Ph.Ds produced by late Professor Olumbe Basir, a legendary biochemist. Among his Colleagues were Professor S. I. Faparusi and Dr. I. A. Akinrele, a former Director of Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO).

Late Professor Osiyemi started his career in the Department of Biochemistry of this University on 01 October, 1964 as an Assistant Lecturer and he rose to the grade of Senior Lecturer in 1975. He was visiting Research Professor at Veteran Administration Hospital, Brockton, Massachusetts in 1975 and Visiting Professor of Biochemistry at University of Calabar in 1978. He was Acting Head of Department on a number of occasions whenever the late Professor Bassir was on leave. Professor Osiyemi was UNESCO specialist in Biochemistry at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana between 1977 and 1981. His research interests included production of aflatoxin by *Aspergillus flavus*, preparation of C¹⁴-labelled aflatoxins, metabolism of aflatoxins in mammals, chromatography of fat-soluble vitamins and biliary excretion of drugs in rat. He was an excellent teacher and had supervised several M.Sc. dissertations and Ph.D theses. Some of his former students at the undergraduate level included Professors G. O. Emerole, A. O. Uwaifo, M. A. Fafunso (late), E. N. Maduagwu and O. O. Olorunsogo, the current Head of Department of Biochemistry and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of this University. Professor Osiyemi had presented several scientific papers at international meetings and conferences. He had several publications to his credit. He was a teacher of teachers. Professor Osiyemi was a recipient of the Federal Nigerian Government Scholarship Award and a fellow of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Chairman, Biochemistry Section, Science Association of Nigeria (1974), President, Nigerian Association

of University Teachers (1974 - 1975) and member of several learned societies including Nutrition Society of Nigeria and International Committee of Scientific Union (ICSU).

Professor Osiyemi retired from the University of Ibadan in 1984 and later worked in the then Ogun State University (now Olabisi Onabanjo University) as foundation Professor of Biochemistry and Head of Department. He was also the foundation Dean of Basic Medical Sciences in the Medical School of Ogun State University, with Professor Jide Ajayi as Provost. Professor Osiyemi was also a member of Council of the University and retired from lecturing in 1994. In December, 1997 he was appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, a position he held until 2001. He thereafter retired from active service.

Professor Osiyemi is survived by his wife, Mrs. Oluyemisi Feyisetan Osiyemi, a former Chief Matron at the University of Health Centre (Jaja Clinic), six children, several grandchildren and a great grand-child. He will be missed by his family, friends, students and colleagues and indeed by the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ibadan.

May his gentle soul rest in peace! Amen.

Burial arrangements are as announced by the family.

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