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Special Release

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OBITUARY

Professor Akpanoluo Ikpong Ikpong Ette, FNIP, FSAN, FAS, NNOM (23 September, 1929 - 17 September, 2018)

Professor A. I Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Akpanoluo Ikpong Ikpong Ette, a staff of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science. The sad event occurred on Monday, 17 September, 2018.

Late Professor Akpanoluo Ikpong Ikpong Ette was born on 23 September, 1929 in Upenekang, Ibeno, Akwa Ibom State. After his early elementary education, he attended Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar (1944-1948). He passed the Cambridge School Certificate in Grade I in 1948 and was admitted to the Department of Physics, University College Ibadan, now University of Ibadan in 1949 as one of the second set of undergraduate students to the Nigerian Premier University. Based on his excellent performance, he was offered College Scholarship in 1953, which he enjoyed until he graduated with Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) (Special), Physics in 1954. He dutifully returned as physics master to Hope Waddell Training Institution in 1954 to 1959 to honour a five-year bond with the school.

Late Professor Ette started his career in the Department of Physics, University of Ibadan, as Lecturer II in 1959/60 academic session and immediately embarked on his Ph.D research in the area of Atmospheric Physics. He successfully put the Department on world map within 1959 to 1966 when he established the Department as a centre of excellence in the studies of Atmospheric Electrical Phenomenon under Tropical Conditions. His research activities stood out clearly as evidenced by the numerous protruding electrodes dotting the Department and his observatory at the 'Uphill' behind the present day Abdulsalami Abubakar Postgraduate Hall. He defended his Ph.D thesis in August 1966 and having published seven papers from the thesis, he was promoted to the grade of a Senior Lecturer the same year and became a Professor in 1972. He was at different

times a Fellow, Visiting Scientist and Associate Member of many international research centres such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, Austria and the International Centre (now Abdul Salam) Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy. Late Professor Ette enjoyed teaching physics and was well known for his thoroughness. He was highly respected by many generations of students for his special skill in teaching electromagnetic theory and atmospheric phenomena.

Between 1962 and 1972 he served as Assistant Warden, Warden and Master of Mellanby Hall, and was awarded the Distinguished Order of Mellanby (DOM) in 1974 by the students of the Hall. He was the Head, Department of Physics from 1975 to 1978. He was the first Dean of the Postgraduate School now Postgraduate College between 1976 and 1978. Late Professor Ette helped to launch the University of Ibadan into its present role of breeder institution for academics in all other Nigerian Universities. He served as a member of the National Youth Service Directorate (1975-1983), and member of Board of Governing Council of Project Development Institute (PRODA) (1980-83). Also, as Associate Editor and Editor to a number of learned local and international journals including Nigerian Journal of Natural Science, Journal of West African Science Association and Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science. He was a foundation member and later, Fellow of the Science Association of Nigeria. He was a Secretary, Vice President and a Foundation Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. He served on many international professional bodies such as the International Commission of Atmospheric Electricity (ICEA) and Global Circuit and Fair Weather Electricity.

Late Professor Ette retired from the University of Ibadan on 1 October, 1990 and was given a contract appointment for one year to cushion the impact of the withdrawal of his immense contributions to the teaching and research programme of the Department. At the dinner in his honour at retirement on 11 December, 1990 Professor Ette pledged an annual donation of one hundred pounds (£100) to the University Library for procuring current overseas texts in Physics for the use of staff and students. The first cheque was given on 8 February, 1991 and the donation has remained in perpetuity. Professor Ette was in 1990 and 1995 a contract staff in Department of Physics, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, which is largely an offshoot of the University of Ibadan. The staff and students of LAUTECH would forever be grateful for his incalculable contributions to the development of the then nascent university.

Professor Ette was cited in Africa and International Who's Who of Intellectuals including IBC Cambridge, Men of Achievements, Contemporary Personalities, Academia Italia. He was awarded the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM) in 2002.

He was a quintessential and highly fulfilled family man.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Edak Ette, children and grandchildren.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 2018

Service of Songs, Church Hall, Chapel of Resurrection, University of Ibadan at 4.30pm

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2018

Lying-in-state, Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan at 8.00am – 9.00am

Commendation Service, Chapel of Resurrection, University of Ibadan at 10.00am

FRIDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 2018

Wake Keep at the Family Compund, Upenekang, Ibeno LGA, Akwa Ibom State at 4.00pm.

SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 2018

Funeral Service at the Family Compund, Upenekang, Ibeno LGA, Akwa Ibom State at 10.00am.

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