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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR DAVID OMOBAMIDELE ALONGE

(04 JULY, 1943 – 28 NOVEMBER, 2018)

Professor A. I Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor David Omobamidele Alonge, a staff of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The sad event occurred on Wednesday, 28 November, 2018.

Late Professor Alonge was born on 4 July, 1943 at Akure in Ondo State. He obtained the Degrees of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with distinction from the University of Ibadan in 1973, Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Public Health from Massey University, New Zealand and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) at the University of Ibadan with his Thesis entitled “Smoke Preservation of meat in Nigeria: Quality and Public Health Aspects in October 1984.

He started his academic career at the Ahmadu Bello University, College of Animal Science, Kaduna as a Tutor Grade II between August 1974 and December 1976. He later transferred his service to the University of Ibadan with his appointment as a Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Veterinary Public Health on 20 December 1976. He rose through the ranks by promotion to the post of Lecturer Grade I on 01 October 1979, Senior Lecturer on 30 June 1982 and he became a Professor of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine on 01 October 1991. His major areas of research were Meat Processing, Preservation, Hygiene and Inspection; Food Safety, Public Health and Risks Analysis for which he became a reputable international expert and scholar.

At the Department, Late Professor Alonge served as the Acting Head of Department from 20 July to 30 September, 1977 (3 months) and was again appointed for 2 years as the Acting Head with effect from 01 August, 1988 to 31 July, 1990. As a result of his excellent performance and good administration, he was re-appointed again as the Acting Head of Department for another one year with effect from 01 October 1990. He became the Head of Department for the first 3 years from April, 1995 and served again as the Head of Department from 01 May, 2000 for another 3 years. Late Professor Alonge until his retirement was a clinical consultant of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Late Professor Alonge also served the University in various capacities. He was the Assistant Hall Warden, Independence Hall, 1984-1987; Hall Master, Independence Hall 1994-1997; Hall Warden, Balewa (Postgraduate Hall); Chairman, User/Library Committee on Application of CD-Rom in Academic University 1994; Chairman, University of Ibadan Mission Research on Ethnoveterinary Drug Research 2003-2008 and Chairman, Organising Committee of National Meat Inspection workshop, March 2005.

Late Prof. Alonge delivered his inaugural lecture entitled “Safe Food for All – Give the Man Meat” to the University in 1999. At the National level, this erudite scholar and expert in Public Health has been of immense contribution and service to our country Nigeria. He served in the Presidential Committee on Livestock in 2002, and he was the Head of Nigerian Delegates at World Trade Organization (WTO) on Risk Analysis of Agricultural Commodities on Animal and Plant health, food safety and Risk Assessment. He had been involved in the training and retraining of Meat Inspectors and Veterinary Public Health Officers in several States of the country. He coordinated the workshop on Meat Inspection under the National Zoonoses Centre both in Ibadan and Abuja. He was the group Leader NSTDA Project on Meat and Fish Preservation in Nigeria.

During his academic career, Late Professor Alonge travelled far and wide across the globe for training conferences and as an international expert and consultant. He was appointed as Senior Veterinary Officer by the Department of Animal Health and Production of Federal Republic of Botswana in 1996 where he later moved to Technikon Natal Center for Postgraduate Studies as the Assistant Vice-Principal in Durban Republic of South Africa. Professor Alonge while at Botswana was involved in training of meat inspectors from many Africa Countries.

Late Professor Alonge attended many local and international conferences where he presented over (30) scientific papers as a renowned Scholar. He had published over fifty (50) journal articles in both Local and International Journals. He was internal and external examiner and visiting Professor to many Nigeria Universities and abroad.

He supervised over (50) Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Project, over 20 MVPH, M.Phil dissertation and about 5-10 Ph.D Theses.

Late Professor Alonge was credited for his publication of text book on Meat and Milk Hygiene of which has become meat inspection and food safety manual to Veterinarians and Public Health specialists. He also published a handbook for Rabbit Farmers in 1987.

He was a fellow of College of Veterinary Surgeon of Nigeria, he was also a scholar of the Western State of Nigeria in 1967-1973, a Postgraduate Fellow of FAO in 1975, a DAAD Fellow of German Academic Exchange Services in 1984 and a fellow of International Atomic Energy in 1986.

Professor Alonge was a member of several learned societies such as: Science Association of Nigeria, Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, Nigerian Society of Animal Production and Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology.

He was an associate member of Nigerian Institute of Management, a member of the editorial board of International Journal of Zoonoses and a member of World Association of Veterinary Food Hygienists. He also served his home state as a member of the Governing Board of Ondo State Polytechnic now Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo-State.

Professor Alonge was happily married to his loving and supporting wife, Mrs. Catherina B. Alonge and was blessed with successful children. He retired from the service of the University on 30 September, 2008.

May his soul rest in peace.

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