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Special Release

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PROFESSOR AKINWOLE RUFUS FALAYAJO

(20 May, 1936 - 02 February, 2019)

Professor A. I Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Akinwale Rufus Falayajo, a staff in the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 02 February, 2019.

Late Professor Akinwale Rufus Falayajo was born on the 20 May, 1936 in Igbara-Oke, Ondo State. He was the only son and the last child of Pa Daniel and Madam Emily Falayajo. He married his heartthrob on 30 April, 1966.

He had his professional training at the St. Andrews College, Oyo. Then, he proceeded to the prestigious Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, where he obtained Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) from the University of Durham, with First Class Division. Later, he attended Ontario Institute, University of Toronto, Canada for his M.A in 1970 and Ph.D in 1974. Professor Falayajo's fields of specialisation are Chemistry and Mathematics Education, Test and Measurement.

Late Falayajo was appointed Junior Research Fellow in the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan with effect from October 1, 1972 and promoted Research Fellow II in 1974, Research Fellow I in 1977 and Senior Research Fellow in 1980. He became a Professor in 1989.

He was appointed the Acting Director of the Institute between 14 March 1988 and 13 March 1990 and substantive Director, Institute of Education from 1 April, 1993 to 31 March, 1996. During the period of his Directorship, he was the Chairman, Board of the Staff School and the Board of the International School, Ibadan (ISI).

He was a member of many national and international academic professional bodies. Some of these are: American Educational Research Association, Psychometric Society, American Statistical Association and Science Teachers Association of Nigeria.

Late Professor Falayajo was a recipient of local, national and international awards/scholarships. He received the Solomon Pratt's Prize for Mathematics, Fourah Bay College, 1965. He received the College Prize for outstanding performance in degree examination Fourah Bay College, 1965 and African – American Scholars Council Fellowship for research on Science Teacher Education in Nigeria (1972/73). He served as the first Secretary of West African Educational Research Consortium between 1975 - 78.

Late Professor Falayajo had teaching experience at the St. Andrews College, Oyo (1965 – 68), University of Toronto – Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (O. I. S. E.), and University of Ibadan. He was nominated by the then Director of Institute of Education, University of Ibadan to teach Item Analysis at the African Curriculum Organization (ACO) Conference at GIMPA, Accra, Ghana. He was one of those labelled “the Yoloys boys” at the ACO curriculum workshop in Nairobi by the then Deputy Director of BREDA, Dr. Mengot because of his brilliant performance as a resource person at the workshop.

One of the most outstanding achievements of Late Professor Falayajo was his leadership of a project labelled the Monitoring of Learning Achievement (MLA) of Primary 4 pupils throughout the federation in 1996 which was embarked upon by the Federal Government, UNICEF and UNESCO. Through the project, the Institute of Education was given five desktop computers, line and lazer jet printers (the first of its kind). This motivated one of the past Directors of the Institute to suggest naming the computer room after Professor Akinwale Falayajo which was supported by the staff of the Institute. Also, he carried out the first IEA study in the Institute- the second IEA study of Mathematics (22 systems).

As at 1989, Late Professor Falayajo published 20 books, chapters in books and monographs, as well as 15 Articles in reputable Journals. He had 3 unpublished articles.

Late Professor Falayajo was a member of the team of experts that laid the foundation for the Southern African system of regional assessment. He produced many PhD graduates, a number of whom have become distinguished Professors of Education: Osafehinti in Lagos State University (LASU), Odeyemi and Adewale in University of Ibadan, Igbinosun and Afemikhe in University of Benin, Oye Bandele in Ekiti State University and former Vice- Chancellor Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Mfonobong Umobong in University of Uyo and Dr Iyi Uwadiae the current Registrar of West African Examinations Council (WAEC) was his Ph.D student. Similarly, Dr Onwuakpa, the current Director of Quality Assurance in National Examinations Council (NECO) was also his PhD student. Other students (that can readily come to mind) supervised by Prof. ‘Wole Falayajo are Drs. Oshodi, Damian Ademulegun, and Sola Akindele in Canada.

After retirement from the University, he founded Fawol Educational Research and Development where he was the Director since 2005 till the time he gave up the ghost on Saturday, 2 February, 2019.

Late Professor Falayajo is survived by his wife, Mrs Juliana Ayinke Falayajo and children: Mr. Olumuyiwa and Mrs Oluwatoyin Falayajo, Pastor Kolawole and Dr (Mrs) Oluwayemisi Falayajo, Mr. Olusola and Mrs Oluwafunmilayo Aiyepetu and Dr Akintayo and Dr. Mrs Olajumoke Falayajo.

He is also survived by brothers, sisters and grandchildren.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen

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