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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR ADEMOLA ADEKUNTE LADELE (13 October, 1956 – 10 June, 2021)

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, FNAL, fspsp, announces, with deep regret, the transition of Professor Ademola Adekunle Ladele, a staff in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Faculty of Agriculture. The sad event occurred on Thursday, 10 June, 2021.

Late Professor Ademola Adekunle Ladele was born on 13 October, 1956 in Okeho, Kajola Local Government Area, Oyo State. He attended Oranyan Grammar School (1968 – 1972) and Olivet Baptist High School (1973 – 1975) both in Oyo, where he obtained the West African School Certificate and Higher School Certificate respectively. He later proceeded to the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) Ile-Ife from 1976 – 1979 where he obtained B.Sc. Agriculture.

Late Professor Ladele had a stint of lecturing at Oyo State College of Education, Ila-Orangun (now Osun State College of Education), before he gained admission to the University of Ibadan where he obtained M.Sc. in Agricultural Extension in 1983 and Ph.D. Agricultural extension in 1990. He benefitted from Cocoa Board Award at the Obafemi Awolowo University and University of Ilorin Staff Development Award during his undergraduate and master's degree programmes respectively.

Professor Ladele was appointed Assistant Lecturer with his M.Sc degree at the University of Ilorin in 1985. He was on *prima facie* for the position of Reader before he took a Senior Lecturer appointment in the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, at the University of Ibadan in July 2000. He was promoted to Reader in 2003 and to the rank of Professor in 2006. While in the University of Ilorin, he served his Department, Faculty and the University in various capacities. He was Chairman, Faculty of Agriculture's undergraduate seminar (1994-1997); Faculty representative on Library and Publication Committee (1994-1997) and an Associate Editor (Science edition) of CentrepoinT-University of Ilorin multidisciplinary journal (1995-1997). He was the first Editor-in-Chief and Chairman, Editorial Board of Agrosearch – a Journal of Agriculture, Food and Development.

Late Professor Ladele successfully supervised about 60 undergraduate students' projects; 38 masters dissertations and 14 Ph.D Theses. His area of specialization include technology transfer, agricultural cooperatives and participatory extension; and his research interests gravitated from farmers' groups, agricultural systems and linkages to policy advocacy and corruption in agriculture. He has over 85 publications in both local and international outlets, spread amongst

electronic-prints, chapters in books, learned conference/workshop proceedings, technical papers and journals; with over 50 of the publications as journal articles. He was a member of several professional bodies such as:

- Association for International Agricultural extension and Education (AIAEE)
- International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA).
- Extension Africa and Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (NIFAAS).
- Member of Agricultural extension Society of Nigeria (AESON).
- Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN), where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Association (2006 to 2010).

As regards research and development activities, Late Professor Ladele is the Programme Director of Farm and Infrastructure Foundation (FIF) – an NGO promoting policy best practices in agriculture and rural development towards poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement. He is also the Chairman of Pricewell Agrext Consults Limited which is a private extension and farm management outfit promoting the transformation of smallholder farmers to agribusiness. He was a recipient of Senate Research Grants and Tertiary Education trust Fund (TETFund) Research Project Grants. He consulted for NIGERIA-USAID/MARKETS II project and IITA AgResults Aflasafe Project both under the auspices of Pricewell Agrext Consults.

Late Professor Ladele has served as external examiner to the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), University of Benin, Benin; Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomosho; University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Federal University of Technology, Akure. He also served some University off Nigerian shore in external examiner capacity including University of Ghana, Legon and Cape Coast University, Ghana; Njala University, Sierra Leone and North-West university (Mafikeng), South Africa.

Late Professor Ladele also held several administrative positions: These include:

- Chairman, Departmental Staff Seminar Committee, 2000-2003;
- Editor, the Ibadan Extension Monograph series, 2000-2003
- Postgraduate Programme Coordinator, 2002 – 2003.
- Acting Head of the Department from 2004 to 2006, when he spearheaded the movement of the Department to her permanent building; the relocation thus put an end to the department's 26 years of tenancy on campus.
- He led the UI Radio Project Committee as Chairman (2005 – 2010) to establish Diamond FM Radio; the 1st community radio in Ibadan environ.
- Substantive Head of Department (2010-2013) when he led the Department to resuscitate the outreach programme, a core activity of the Department, which was moribund for several years due to lack of fund.
- Dean, Faculty of Agriculture from 01 August, 2017 to 31 July, 2019

Late Professor Ladele died in active service after a brief illness. He is survived by his lovely wife, Mrs. Ijeoma Stephanie Ladele, children and many academic children.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

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