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Special Release

26 July, 2023

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR WALE OYEMAKINDE (1942 - 2023)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Wale Oyemakinde, a distinguished retired Professor of Economics History of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Tuesday, 25 May, 2023. He was aged 81 years.

Professor Oyemakinde was born in Ibadan in 1942. He graduated from Baptist College, Iwo in 1961. He attended the University of Ibadan and graduated with a B.A. (Honours) in History with Second Class Upper Division, 1965; PhD Economics History, 1970, University of Ibadan; and M.Sc. Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin, USA, 1973.

Professor Oyemakinde started his professional career as a Tutorial Assistant in Economics History at the Department of Economics, University of Ibadan, 1967/68; Lecturer in Economics History, University of Lagos, 01 September 1968 - 30 September, 1974; Senior Lecturer in Economics History, University of Lagos, 01 October 1974 to 31 August, 1975. On 01 September, 1975 he was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Economics History, Department of History, University of Ibadan. His appointment was confirmed on 01 September, 1978. He was promoted from Senior Lecturer to Reader in the Department of History, University of Ibadan on 01 October, 1980. He rose through the ranks and was appointed a Professor of Economics History by the University on 01 October, 1985. He was appointed Head of the famous Ibadan School of History, University of Ibadan from 01 August 1985 to 31 July, 1987.

Professor Oyemakinde published numerous outstanding journal articles and wrote many books that are known globally. Some of his famous books are: *Strategies for Revamping the Nigerian Economy*, which was published in 1991; *An Introduction to Church Missionary Society Manuscripts*, 2001; *Essays in Economics History*, 2005; and *Growing Global Economy Through Arbitration*, 2014. In the course of his career at the University of Ibadan, he supervised numerous postgraduate students who became outstanding scholars.

Professor Oyemakinde's intellectual prowess earned him scholarship and prizes. These included Federal Government Postgraduate Scholarship, 1967/68; Irving and Bonnar Graduate Prize in History, University of Ibadan, 1967; 1981-1982 Fulbright Award for Senior African Scholar; 1980/1981 Senate Research Grant to study "A History of Agriculture in Nigeria: Tradition and Change in the Nigerian Rural Economy." He was a visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow in African Economics History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1972/73.

The distinguished Professor of Economics History served as a member of various committees within the University community during his service years. He was a member of the Joint Council/Senate Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets, University of Ibadan 1976-1989; Member, Ibadan University Publishing House Board of Management, 1982-1989; and Member, University of Ibadan Senate, 1984-1989.

Professor Oyemakinde served as Secretary, Historical Society of Nigeria. In 1978, Oyo State government appointed him as a member of the Chieftaincy Declarations Review Commission. He was appointed as a member of the Oyo State Committee on Local Government Reforms by Governor Bola Ige in 1979. He served on the National Universities Commission Accreditation Panels at various times. Professor Oyemakinde was a community leader. He held the chieftaincy titles of The Asiwaju of Awaye and Areago Baroyin of Ibadanland.

His records indicate that he served the University of Ibadan as a distinguished scholar for a total of 14 years (1975-1989). Professor Oyemakinde retired prematurely from the services of the University of Ibadan at the end of May 1989 in order to seek elected office. He continued to serve the department on contract appointment between November 1989 and January 1990; December 1990 and February 1991. Professor Oyemakinde was among the retired senior historians who freely offered teaching services and supervision when the department was in dire need of academic staff. He would be greatly missed by the Department of History and the entire University of Ibadan.

Professor Oyemakinde was a family man. He was married to Chief Mrs. Abimbola Oyemakinde who retired from the University of Ibadan as a Principal Librarian, Kenneth Dike Library. They had three children.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

Lying in State: 8.00 a.m. on Thursday, 03 August, 2023 in Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan.

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