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Special Release

18 September, 2024

## OBITUARY

### PROFESSOR THOMPSON ADEYEMI BADEJOKO, *FNMGS* (1945 – 2024)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Thompson Adeyemi Badejoko, a distinguished retired Professor of Geochemistry and Mineralogy in the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan. He was aged 79 years.

Professor T. A. Badejoko was born on 02 February, 1945 to the family of late Pa Kasali Badejoko of Ikanigbo, Ijebu-Ode and the Olutunfese Royal Family of Ijebu-Ife and Late Madam Selinah Taiwo Badejoko of Ogbogbo, all in Ogun State. He had his primary school education in Lagos State, before proceeding to the prestigious Government College, Ibadan (GCI) where he later taught briefly after his A Levels.

Late Professor Thompson Adeyemi Badejoko gained admission to the University of Ibadan in 1966 to pursue a B.Sc degree in Geology. However, after a rigorous field work at the end of his second year, he changed his course to Chemistry, due to his inability to cope with the demands of “bush life”. He disclosed this humorously twenty-nine years later, in his inaugural lecture of 30 November, 1995 entitled; ***“Geochemistry: The Heartbeat of Mineral Resources”***. Interestingly, after graduating in 1969, he returned to Geology Department to pursue M.Sc. degree in Geochemistry, encouraged by the then Head of Department, Late Professor M.O. Oyawoye, who needed someone with sufficient background in Chemistry and a knowledge in Geology to strengthen the Geochemistry unit of the Department. He then went ahead and completed his postgraduate studies in Applied Geochemistry and Mineralogy in the Department of Geology, University of Ibadan.

Professor Badejoko was employed in the Department of Geology in October 1971, as an Experimental Officer, and rose through the ranks to become a Professor on 01 October 1987. His immense contributions to unravelling the petrogenetic, structural styles and geochemistry of the Younger Granites series of Nigeria is documented in his PhD thesis of 1977, entitled *“The Composition and Structural State of K-feldspar and their Bearing on the Evolution of the Younger Granites of Central Nigeria”*. Notably, this ground breaking

work remains a reference in the geology of the Younger Granites today. The late Professor Badejoko had numerous research stays, including sabbatical appointments, in many world-class universities in the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and France, among others. Professor Badejoko had a distinguished career at the University of Ibadan; he served as Head of the Department of Geology for eight years (1987-1989; 1991-1994; 1998-2001). In those days of real University autonomy, he demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision, prioritizing staff recruitment and retention by encouraging graduates to return and take up appointments. He was Member, Postgraduate and Research Committee, Board of Examiners, Appointments and Promotions Committee and Departmental Consultancy Services Committee, as well as member of Senate, where he served on different committees. He was also appointed member of the Task Force on Water supply to the University of Ibadan by the then Vice-Chancellor, Late Prof. Ayodeji Banjo, among others.

Late Professor Badejoko was a committed member of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS). After serving the NMGS meritoriously for many years, he was elected Fellow (F-71-0046) and later Vice-President. He became the 23<sup>rd</sup> President of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) from 2005-2007. He was Chairman, Local Organizing Committee of the NMGS Annual International Conference and Exhibitions held in 2013 at the International Conference Centre, Ibadan. Yemi Badejoko as he was often called, was a certified professional with the Council of Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) and was in the pioneer class of inductees (GEM 000091). In further recognition of his contributions to his Society, he received the 2020 NMGS/SHELL award, the highest award of the NMGS at the Annual International Conference and Exhibitions held in Ibadan. This award, sponsored by Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) is given to ‘*earth scientist of any nationality, who has made significant contributions to the field of earth sciences by persistent and consistent, excellent research in either or both of the pure and applied aspects for the earth sciences of African continent*’. He was also a Member of the New York Academy of Sciences (MNYAS).

As a dedicated educator, the late Professor of Geochemistry and Mineralogy supervised many students at various levels, from PhD to B.Sc. He was a very diligent teacher and researcher, compassionate, friendly but firm and very fashionable. He was also external examiner to several Nigerian and foreign Universities. After thirty-three years of consistent services in teaching, research and mentoring, Professor Badejoko voluntarily retired in 2005, from the services of the University of Ibadan, after presenting a valedictory lecture in April, 2005 entitled: *Solid Minerals Development: Solid Progress or Solid Waste*.

In his post-retirement, Professor Badejoko remained active, consulting for local and international companies on environmental impact assessments, subsurface and geotechnical investigations, groundwater development projects among others. He founded the Bayat Limited, a ceramics manufacturing and water solutions company that executed projects of a diverse range across the country. He was an active member of Government College, Ibadan Old Boys’ Association, the Residents’ Association of Atiba Road, New Bodija. He also served on many boards and non-profit organizations.

Sadly, Professor Thompson Adeyemi Badejoko passed away peacefully on Saturday, 17 August 2024, just a week before their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, at the age of 79 years. He is survived by his dear wife, Dr. Mrs. Adedaja Badejoko (nee Banjoko) whom he fondly called “Dorjil”, his children Tolulope and Olasubomi, their spouses, Tolulope and Onaolapo, grandchildren, siblings, cousins, in-laws and dear friends.

<b>FUNERAL PROGRAMME</b>	
<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	<b>Events and Venue</b>
<b>Tuesday, 24 September, 2024</b> <b>Time 12.00 noon – 3.00pm</b>	<b>A DAY OF TRIBUTES: Nigerian Mining &amp; Geosciences Society (NMGS)</b> <i>Dr Lai Fatona Lecture Theatre, Prof Oyawoye Building, Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan</i>
<b>Wednesday, 25 September, 2024</b> <b>Time: 4.30pm</b>	<b>SERVICE OF SONGS &amp; NIGHT OF TRIBUTES</b> <i>His Residence, 1 Atiba Road, New Bodija</i>
<b>Thursday, 26 September, 2024</b> <b>Time 8.00am – 9.00am</b>	<b>LYING-IN-STATE</b> <i>Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan, Ibadan</i>
<b>Thursday, 26 September, 2024</b> <b>Time: 10.00am</b>	<b>COMMENDATION SERVICE</b> <i>Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan, Ibadan</i>
<b>Thursday, 26 September, 2024</b> <b>Time: 5.00pm</b>	<b>WAKE KEEP</b> <i>Adeola Odutola Events Centre, No. 204, Folagbade Street, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State</i>
<b>Friday, 27 September, 2024</b> <b>Time: 11.00am</b>	<b>FUNERAL SERVICE</b> <i>The Cathedral Church of Our Saviour, Ita-Olowajoda, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State</i>
<b>Friday, 27 September, 2024</b> <b>Time: After Service</b>	<b>RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT OF GUESTS</b> <i>Bisi Rodipe Hall, Luba Road, GRA, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State</i>

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