



4852

Special Release

06 December, 2024

OBITUARY

PROF (MRS) PHILOMENA OSAZEE ESIGBEMI FAYOSE (August 03, 1937 – October 24, 2024)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Kayode O. Adebowale, mni, fspsp, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Philomena Osazee Esigbemi Fayose, a retired Professor of Library and Information Sciences in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan. She was aged 87 years.

Professor Philomena Osazee Esigbemi Fayose, affectionately known as “Philo” by her peers and “Esigbemi” by her family, was born on 03 August, 1937, into the distinguished Aideyan family of Benin City, now in Edo State, Nigeria. Her mother fondly recalled that she was born in a studio apartment in the expansive compound of her late grand aunt, Ireden, a successful trader, in Daudu, Warri, where she spent her early years.

Philo’s academic journey began at the local elementary school attached to the Catholic Church in Warri, where she quickly showed promise in her studies. After completing her elementary education, she moved to Lagos with her father and attended Holy Child College, a prominent secondary school, where she graduated in 1957. Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose attended University of Ibadan between 1962 and 1965 for Bachelor of Arts degree. She was at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth from 1965 to 1966, where she obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Education with specialisation in School Librarianship. She later attended the University of Ghana, Legon, from 1967 to 1969 for a Postgraduate Diploma in Library Science. From 1975 to 1976, Professor Philomena Fayose studied at the University of Technology, Longborough, where she obtained a Master’s degree in Library Science. In 1979, she was also at the same University of Technology, Longborough, as participant student for Ph.D. degree.

Professor Philomena O. Fayose was appointed as Lecturer 1 in 1979 by the University of Ibadan. She gained promotion to Senior Lecturer on 01 October, 1984; Reader on 01 October, 1989; and was promoted to the rank of Professor on 01 October, 1992. She retired from the service of University of Ibadan on 30 September, 2004.

A very brilliant scholar, Professor Philomena Fayose won the Federal Government Scholarship for undergraduate studies from 1962 to 1965. She earned Martinus Nijhoff Study Award, a postgraduate study tour of children’s libraries in Europe between June and September 1979. She won a grant for a comparative study of Modern Realistic Stories for Children at the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, from July to September 1982.

The late Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose ranks among the foundation academic staff of the one-time Department of Library Studies, and later, Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of Ibadan. She was an effective teacher, an astute administrator, and a great mobiliser of material and human resources for the development of the Department. Working at a time when the social media and the Internet were a rarity, the late Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose was highly networked with prominent librarians, library educators and philanthropists all over Nigeria, Ghana and the UK, among other countries.

Between 2001 and 2004, she was the Head of Department. It was remarkable that the late Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose ran an open administration and was fair to all. She greatly impacted the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies and on Library and Information Science in Nigeria as a whole. She was a pioneer and notable member of different bodies in her field of specialisation. Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose was a member of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA); Member, Nigerian School Library Association; Member, International Association of School Librarianship; Member, International Board on Books for Children and Young Adults; and Patron, Nigerian Junior-Readers Club. She was at the vanguard of the formation of the Nigerian Library and Information Science Educators (NALISE) and championed its cause for many years.

Sadly, Professor Philomena Osazee Fayose nee Aideyan passed away peacefully in the early hours of Thursday, 24 October 2024, at the age of 87 years. She is survived by her dear husband, Professor (Chief) Emmanuel Abiodun Fayose; their children: Abayomi Fayose, Morenike Abiodun, Jumoke Ohiosimuan, and Ayodele Fayose; their spouses, grandchildren, siblings, cousins, in-laws and dear friends.

Mama will be dearly missed by several generations of staff and students because she has left her footprints on the sands of time.

May her gentle soul rest in the bosom of the Lord, Amen!

●●● END ●●●