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Special Release

28 February, 2025

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR BRIGGS CHINKATA NZOTTA (1938– 2024)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, fspsp, announces with deep regret the transition of Professor Briggs Chinkata Nzotta, a retired staff from the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan. He died on December 31, 2024, aged 86 years.

Professor Briggs Chinkata Nzotta was born on October 13, 1938 to the family of Reverend Titus Nguma Nzotta and Mrs Stella Nzotta (nee Nwachukwu), of Umuode, Ihie in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area, Abia State.

He attended Ngwa High School, Aba, where he obtained his Higher School Certificate. Thereafter, he got his Teacher's Grade II qualification from St. John's College, Diobu, Port Harcourt and taught briefly at a local secondary school. He went on to further his studies and obtained a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Hons in English from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1967. In 1972, he completed a Postgraduate Diploma programme in Library Studies at the University of Ibadan. Professor Nzotta completed his postgraduate education at Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom, where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D in Library and Information Science in 1975 and 1981 respectively.

Professor Nzotta joined the staff of the University of Ibadan as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies in 1972 and rose through the ranks to the position of Professor in October 1989. He held various administrative positions within the University, and served as Head of Department of the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies (1990 - 1995).

After his retirement from the University of Ibadan, he was employed as a Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. He also served as Head of Department at that institution before retiring from the academia.

Professor Nzotta made significant contributions to Library and Information Science literature. He also contributed to the development of a robust Library and Information Science curriculum and played a pivotal role in advancing the profession in Nigeria. His mentorship and academic leadership have been instrumental in shaping the careers of many Library and Information Science professionals in Nigeria and beyond. He also made outstanding contributions, as a member, editor, consultant and editor-in-chief, to various organizations nationally and internationally including the Nigerian Library Association, the Nigerian Library and Information Science Review, the International Rice Research Institute (Manila, Philippines), and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

Professor Nzotta is survived by his lovely wife, Mrs Happiness Olanma Nzotta, children, and grandchildren.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

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