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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR GABRIEL MOJISOLA BABATUNDE

(14 September, 1938 – 09 October, 2017)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Gabriel Mojisola Babatunde, a retired staff of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture. The sad event occurred on Monday, 09 October, 2017. He was aged 79 years.

Professor Gabriel Mojisola Babatunde, the foremost Animal Scientist in Nigeria, was born on September 14, 1938 at Akinmorin, near Oyo in Afijio Local Government of Oyo State to a father who was a cocoa farmer and a mother, a petty trader. Attending school was very tough, but with encouragement from two of his uncles, he had his first experience of schooling at St. John School, Akinmoorin and studied till about 1948. Later, he secured admission in 1952 to Government College, Ibadan (GCI). From GCI, he went for Higher School Certificate (HSC), passed and gained admission to the University of Ibadan (then known as University College). As one of the two best undergraduate students, he was awarded scholarship for further education in Cornell University, USA. He came back to Nigeria in 1967. Thereafter, he obtained PhD and was absorbed into the Department of Animal Science as Lecturer II.

He had the following academic qualifications to his credit: B.Sc (Hons) Agric. (Second Class Upper Division) (London) 1963, M.Sc. (Animal Nutrition), Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (1965) and Ph.D. (Animal Nutrition), Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (1967). He also acquired the following relevant Postgraduate and Professional Diplomas and Qualifications, as he was an IAEA trainee on the use of radioisotopes and radiation in Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine from Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1970), National Academy of Science/National Research Council, Washington/IAEA trainee in isotopic tracers in Animal Science at the University of California (July 1971-April 1972) and member of American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) since 1974. He was promoted Professor of Animal Nutrition (Monogastric) in the Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan in the 1976/77 session. Since then, he had produced many Professors.

Late Professor Babatunde was the First Chairman, Association of Deans of Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry in Nigerian Universities in the 1981/82 session. He served in the Nigerian Council for Science and Technology Committee on Atomic Energy Matters between 1972 and 1974. He was elected into the Phi National Scholastic Honorary Society since 1966 at Cornell University; Member, Professional and Academic Board of the National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI); Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (1981-86); First Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Animal Production (1973-77); Chairman, Presidential Taskforce on Alternative Formulations of Livestock Feeds in Nigeria (1989-1992), Member World Bank External Review Panel for the Nigerian National Agricultural Research Institutes, December 2-18, 1996. He was the Head of Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan from August 1977 to July 31, 1980; Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan 1980-1982, First Rector, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bendel State University, Ekpoma 1982-1984 and the Dean, College of Agricultural Production and Technology, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, 1988 to 1989. Also he was the First Dean of the Colleges of Animal Science and Livestock Production and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (1989-1994) and the Chairman, Student Welfare Board, University of Ibadan, January 1986-December 1988.

Late Professor Babatunde was appointed as External Examiner in many universities including University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Obafemi Awolowo University, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Ahmadu Bello University, University of Ilorin, University of Benin, Federal University of Science and Technology, Akure, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Federal University of Agriculture, University of Zambia; Lusaka, Zambia, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast Ghana and University National du Benin; Cotonou-Benin Republic.

He was also a recipient of numerous scholarship/fellowship prizes and awards among which were College Scholar, University College Ibadan (1961-1963), Department of Agriculture Prize after the final B.Sc Examination in Agriculture (1963), Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship for Higher Studies in Cornell University, Pfizer Travelling Fellowship in 1977 to INFIC (International Network of Feed Information Centre) Conference, Sydney Australia, a prelude to Fifth World Congress in Animal Production, Tokyo, Japan (1982) and Fulbright Senior African Research Scholarship to study nutritive value characteristics of the Nigerian rubber seed meal and oil at the U.S.D.A Meat Animal Research Centre, Hastings, Nebraska, USA September 1986 and February 1987.

He was a member of many learned societies: Life Member and Fellow, Nigerian Society for Animal Production; Fellow, Animal Science Association of Nigeria; Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (RAS No. 00002), Member, American Society of Animal Science (1964-till date); Agricultural Society of Nigeria; Science Association of Nigeria, West African Science Association; Nutrition Society of Nigeria and Country's Representative on the International Network.

Late Professor Babatunde, who was survived by a wife, children and grandchildren, will be remembered for his numerous contributions to the livestock industry.

May his gentle soul rest in peace!

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