



4479

Special Release

10 March, 2022

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR ADEREMI OLUYOMI KUKU

**Ph.D., FAMS (USA), FTWAS, FAAS, FAS (Nig.), FNMS, FMAN, NNOM
(1941–2022)**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode Oyeboade Adebowale, FAS, mni, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Aderemi Oluyomi Kuku, a staff of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. The sad event occurred on Sunday, February 13, 2022. He was aged 80 years.

Late Prof. Kuku was born on March 20, 1941 to the famous Kuku family of Ijebu Ode, Ogun State. He was at Makerere University College, Uganda (then under a special relationship with the University of London) in 1968, where he obtained the Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. From there, he gained admission to the University of Ibadan for postgraduate studies, and obtained the Doctorate Degree in 1971.

Late Prof. Kuku won several scholarships for his undergraduate and postgraduate studies. He utilised the United States Agency for International Development Scholarship from 1962-1965 and Afgrad Fellowship tenable at Columbia University, New York, USA from 1968-1971.

He was appointed an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife, in 1965 and became a Lecturer Grade II in October 1967. Professor Kuku moved to the University of Ibadan in 1968 as a Lecturer Grade II. He attained the grade of a Senior Lecturer (1976-1980), Reader (1980-1982) and full Professor, with effect from October 1, 1982.

On leave of absence from the University of Ibadan, Professor Kuku was a resident Mathematician at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, (ICTP), Italy, from 1995 to 2003. He held visiting positions at Ohio State University, Columbus, USA in 2005; Miami University, Oxford, OH, USA (2005-2006); Universitat Bielefeld, Germany in 2006; IHES, Paris, France in 2006; Max Planck Inst. Fur Mathematik, Bonn, Germany in 2007; University of Iowa, Iowa-City, USA (2007-2008); Grambling State University, LA, USA (2008-2014); National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, Nigeria (2007-2019); Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, the USA in 1993 among many others. He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences; President of the African Mathematical Union; and the President of the African Academy of Sciences, Nairobi, Kenya (2014-2017).

In addition, Professor Kuku was a member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ, USA, Member, Mathematical Association of Nigeria (MAN); Member, Nigerian Mathematical Society (NMS); Fellow of African Science Institute; Fellow of Mongolian Academy of Sciences; Recipient of African Mathematical Union Medal; Distinguished Achiever Award, US National Association of Mathematics; Recipient of the Order of the Niger (OON), and the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM).

The primary field of research of Professor Kuku was Algebraic K-Theory, a subfield of Algebra. He contributed significantly to the development of this field. He established himself as a world-class mathematician who published numerous frontline articles in many competitive mathematics journals around the world. He also published some award-winning tertiary and research mathematics books. He produced many Masters and Doctoral degree graduates in Mathematics not only in Nigeria but also in ICTP. His 70th birthday was celebrated in 2011 by the Chinese Academy of Mathematical Sciences to recognise his significant contributions to mathematics learning and research around the world.

Professor Kuku contributed immensely to the academic and administrative development of the University of Ibadan. He was Head, Department of Mathematics, 1983-1986, Member of Senate for many years, and Dean, Postgraduate School, the University of Ibadan from 1986-1990. It is noteworthy that together with his contemporaries, the academic activities and achievements of the deceased helped to put our University on the global world map. Many of the younger generations of mathematicians enjoyed his mentorship and exposure to international experts and facilities especially during his residency at ICTP. He retired voluntarily from the service of the University of Ibadan in 2001.

Distinguished Professor Kuku's large mathematical footprints remain indelible and perpetually inspiring. He was a globally respected mathematician in his area of specialization: *Algebraic K-Theory*. He will be sorely missed by the mathematics world, especially the Department of Mathematics, University of Ibadan, and will be remembered for his knowledge, wisdom, teaching and guidance.

May his soul rest in peace.

Olubunmi O. Faluyi, MCIPM
Registrar