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SPECIAL RELEASE

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR MOSES OLUBAYO ADENIJI (1936 – 2022)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode Oyeboade Adebawale, FAS, mni, announces with deep regret, the transition of Prof. Moses Olubayo Adeniji, former Head of Department, Department of Agricultural Biology (now Crop Protection and Environmental Biology) and former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Sunday, 16 January, 2022 in Ibadan.

Late Prof. Adeniji was born on April 21, 1936. He obtained Bachelor of Science Degree in Botany from the University of London, Ibadan in June 1961. From there, he proceeded to the University of Nottingham for a Master of Science degree in Mycology and Doctoral Degree in Plant Pathology in June, 1962 and June 1965, respectively. He was at the Agricultural University Wageningen, Netherlands between March and June, 1966.

Late Prof. Adeniji was appointed Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Biology, University of Ibadan on 01 October, 1967 and Lecturer on 01 October, 1968 with confirmation to retiring age effective from 01 October, 1970. He was promoted Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Biology on 01 October, 1972 and Professor five years after on 01 October, 1977. He was involved in teaching and research in the field of plant pathology and nematology, and other administrative activities during his journey through the University of Ibadan. Prior to joining the University of Ibadan, he worked at the Ministry of Agriculture, where he was directly involved in the planning and execution of applied research and University of Ife, Ile-Ife.

Merging the period of services at the Ministry of Agriculture (11 May, 1955 to 31 October, 1966), University of Ife, Ile-Ife (01 November, 1966 to 30 September, 1967) and University of Ibadan (01 October, 1967 to 30 September, 1992), Late Prof. Adeniji was in active public services for 35 years out of which he spent about 24 years in the University of Ibadan.

His research activities covered the root-knot disease of tomato, the damping-off and root-knot diseases of kenaf and roselle fibre crops, the storage decay organisms of yam, etc. Late Prof. Adeniji was at the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, the University of Illinois, USA in 1974 to study the mechanisms involved in the nematode-fungi interactions in plant disease syndromes.

Late Prof. Adeniji served the University of Ibadan in many capacities. He was an Assistant Warden in Tedder Hall from 01 February, 1968 and Warden in the same Hall from 1973 – 30 September, 1977. He was appointed the Hall Master of Kuti Hall from 02 November, 1977 to 30 April, 1982, and later the Hall Master at Tafawa Balewa Hall from 01 August, 1986 to 31 July, 1989, but resigned in August, 1987.

He was the Coordinator of Vacation course for 2nd Year Agricultural Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Science from 1968 to 1971. He was the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry for 1982/83 and 1983/84 academic sessions. He was Head, Department of Agricultural Biology from 01 August, 1987 to 31 July, 1990.

In 1980, Late Prof. Adeniji was at the University of Kenya, Nairobi to assist the Department of Crop Science to teach an M.Sc. Nematology course. He was an external examiner on many occasions to many Universities in Nigeria. Late Prof. Adeniji was at the Department of Crop Science/Forestry, Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST), Port Harcourt from 01 October, 1989 to 30 September, 1990 to assist the University in the teaching of Plant Pathology and Nematology. He was later granted leave of absence without pay for two years from 01 October, 1990 to 30 September, 1992 to continue at RSUST, Port Harcourt. Apart from teaching at the RSUST, he assisted in preparing the University for NUC accreditation and was the pioneer Director of the University's consultancy services. The Vice-Chancellor, RSUST, Port Harcourt continued to request for the extension of leave for Late Prof. Adeniji until he finally pulled him out of the University of Ibadan. He returned to University of Ibadan to proceed on voluntary retirement effective 01 October, 1992.

Late Prof. Adeniji belonged to the following professional and learned societies: Society of Nematologists (American), Nigerian Society for Plant Protection, Science Association of Nigeria, Agricultural Society of Nigeria, West African Science Association and Organisation of Tropical Nematologists.

Late Prof. Adeniji was locally and globally recognised as a scholar per excellence, mentor of mentors, visionary leader and father figure to his students. He was an embodiment of humility, a baggage of humours and a faithful friend to all who interacted with him. Late Prof. Adeniji was a teacher of teachers, distinguished researcher and outstanding consultant in plant health.

He was happily married with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May his soul rest in peace.

Olubunmi O. Faluyi, MCIPM
Registrar