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Special Release

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## OBITUARY

### PROFESSOR BUSUYI OLASINA AGBEJA (1966 - 2022)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode Oyebode Adebowale, FAS, mni, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Busuyi Olasina Agbeja, a staff of the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources. The sad event occurred on Monday, 07 February, 2022. He was aged 56 years.

Late Professor Agbeja was born on January 01, 1966 in Ilesa, Osun State to the family of late George Ige Agbeja and Madam Deborah Abosede Agbeja (still alive). He had his primary education at Government Teacher Training College Demonstration Primary School, Cappa, Ilesa between 1972 and 1977. He proceeded for his secondary school education at Ilesa Grammar School, Ilesa, Ijesa Muslim Grammar School, Ilesa and thereafter, Ilesa Grammar School, Ilesa from 1977 to 1983. He was admitted into the University of Ibadan, Ibadan from 1984 to 1989 where he obtained the Bachelor of Science Degree, Second Class Upper Division in Forest Resources Management. In 1990, he was posted to Bendel State (now Edo State) for his compulsory One Year National Youth Service (NYSC) at the Federal Department of Forestry, Edo State. From there, he proceeded to the University of Ibadan, Ibadan for a Master of Science degree in 1994 and also obtained the Doctoral Degree of the University of Ibadan in 1999.

In his quest for more knowledge in the areas of his discipline, the then Dr. Agbeja was awarded a Diploma in International Environmental Law-Making and Diplomacy by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and University of Joensuu, Finland in July, 2006 and also Diploma in Urban Management Tools for Climate Change, IHS, Erasmus University, Rotterdam in June, 2012.

Late Professor Agbeja was a recipient of more than twenty grants. These included, among others: Dr. (Chief) Lawrence Omole's Foundation Scholarship for M.Sc. Programme in 1992; the prestigious African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Research Grant for Ph.D. Programme in 1998; University of Ibadan Senate Research Grant for individual research in 2002; the African Forest Research Network (AFORNET) Grants (3 times) as Principal Investigator in two and a collaborator in one in 2003 and 2006; International

Foundation for Science (IFS) Grants (2 times) in 2004 and 2008; the Government of Switzerland, Indonesia, UNEP and INTERCOOPERATION Sponsorship to attend United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) workshop and conference in Switzerland in 2004; Postgraduate School, University of Ibadan subsidy to undergo a Training in International Environmental Law-Making and Diplomacy Course in Kwazulu-Natal University, Pieter Maritzburg, South Africa in 2006; University of Ibadan Senate Research Grant for Interdisciplinary research in 2007; University of Ibadan financial assistance to undergo a Training in Erasmus University, Rotterdam in 2012; University of Ibadan financial assistance to attend a Conference on 'Climate Change, Deforestation and the Future of African Rainforests', at University of Oxford, United Kingdom in 2012; TETFUND Grant for Institution Based Research (IBR) in 2016; and Research Fellowship for a Two-Month-Sabbatical as the best selected Candidate at African Forest Forum (AFF), Nairobi, Kenya in 2018.

Late Professor Agbeja joined the Department of Forest Resources Management, University of Ibadan as an Assistant Lecturer in 1997, where he was promoted to the ranks of Lecturer II; Lecturer 1; Senior Lecturer; Reader; and Professor on 01 October, 1999; 01 October, 2002; 01 October, 2005; 01 October, 2008; and 01 October, 2011, respectively. Late Professor Agbeja had to his credit a total of 111 publications in national and international outlets. He produced 30 B.Sc.; 32 M.Sc.; 1 M.Phil.; and 10 Ph.D. graduates. Among the 10 Ph.D. graduates produced, two are now full Professors; one is an Associate Professor in a Nigerian University; and another one is an Assistant Professor in the University of Liberia.

As part of Late Professor Agbeja's contributions to INTERNATIONALIZATION in the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, being a partner/Contact Person to University of Jaen, Spain, he attracted Erasmus Exchange programme GRANTS for 35 Students Mobility and 5 Academic Staff Mobility Scholarships in the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry and Department of Civil Engineering.

He worked in various capacities in the University of Ibadan as follows: Head of Department of Social and Environmental Forestry from 01 August, 2017 to 31 July, 2018; Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources Representative on the Central Appointments and Promotions Committee from 01 August, 2017 to 31 July, 2018; Head of Department of Forest Resources Management, from 01 August, 2012 to 31 July, 2017; Coordinator, Practical Year Training Programme (PYTP) and Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) from 2000 to 2008; Member, Department of Forest Resources Management Postgraduate Committee; Member, Congregation in Senate; Member of Senate; Senate Representative on Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee; and Senior Staff Appointments and Promotions panel of the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources.

He served as an External Examiner in various Universities nationally and internationally as follows: Department of Forestry and Wood Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure; Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; Department of Forestry and Wildlife, University of Benin;

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; University of Pretoria, South Africa; and Pan Africa University, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

Late Prof. Agbeja belonged to the following professional and learned societies: Member, Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA); Member, African Academy of Sciences (AAS); Member, African Forest Research Network (AFORNET); Member, International Foundation for Science(IFS); Member, International Society of Ecological Economics (ISEE); Member, African Forest Forum (AFF); Member, Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON); Member, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC); and Member, Forests and Forest Products Society (FFPS). He was until his death the President, Ilesa Grammar School Old Students' Association 1982 Set. Professor Agbeja had since 2011 to date been the President, Commonwealth Forestry Association, Nigeria Chapter.

Late Professor Agbeja was on sabbatical at the University of Gambia when death came calling.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

**Burial arrangements:**

- Wednesday, 23 February, 2022:
  - Service of songs at the Pope John Paul II Hall, adjacent UI Bookshop at 4.30 p. m.
  
- Thursday, 24 February, 2022:
  - Tributes in Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan at 8.00 a. m.
  
  - Funeral Service and Internment at Rest Park of All Souls' Church, Km 12 Ayorinde Street, Ido Local Government, Ibadan, Oyo State at 11 a. m.

Signed

**Olubunmi O. Faluyi, MCIPM**

**Registrar**