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Special Release

09 February, 2023

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR FOLAGBADE OLAJIDE ABOABA (1933-2023)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Folagbade Olajide Aboaba, the foundation Dean of the Faculty of Technology, as well as the pioneer Head of Department, Agricultural Engineering, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 21 January, 2023. He was aged 89 years.

Professor F. O. Aboaba was born on 08 March, 1933. He attended the prestigious C M S Grammar School, Lagos and then the University College, Ibadan, where he studied Agricultural Mechanization (1955-1959). He then proceeded to King's College, University of Durham, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, U.K., where he bagged M. Sc in Agricultural Engineering in 1962. He got his Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1971.

Professor Aboaba started his University teaching and research career in 1965 as a Lecturer in this University. He taught Agricultural Mechanization courses in the Department of Agronomy from 1965 until 1972 when he moved to the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (now Faculty of Technology since 1975) to head the Department of Agricultural Engineering. From 1975 he was Head of Department and Dean of Technology. Professor Aboaba was responsible for developing the Agricultural Engineering programme which was used until 1978 when the course system was introduced. He taught courses in almost all areas of Agricultural Engineering, including Farm Power and Machinery, Crop Processing and Storage, and Soil and Water Conservation Engineering. Professor Aboaba led various research projects which culminated in the publication of high-quality papers in national and international journals by the time he retired in 1992. He produced five (5) Ph.D. and several M.Sc. students. He delivered his inaugural lecture titled "Engineering in the Production of Food" on 11 June, 1976

Before joining the University service, Professor Aboaba was an Agricultural Officer, a Senior Agricultural Engineer between 1959 and 1964. During his sabbatical and leave of absence from the University, he was General Manager/Executive Director of the Associated Granite Industries Limited, Abeokuta (1979-1981). Within the University, he was Head of Department, Agricultural and Forestry Engineering (1975-1977), Dean of Technology (1975-1979, 1981/1982). Chairman, Committee of Deans, University of Ibadan (1977-1978) and was briefly

the Director of the Teaching and Research Farm, University of Ibadan (1975). He also served as Secretary General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC) of Nigerian Universities (1992-1998).

Professor Aboaba was one of the initiators of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) support to the University of Ibadan. He also facilitated the donation of a one-story building to the Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan (The Fola Aboaba Building), which now houses the Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Department.

Professor Aboaba was a COREN Registered Engineer, and he was consultant to several national and international organisations among which are the United Nations, Shell-BP, Federal Government of Nigeria, and Greenlands Agro-Industrial Company Limited. He also served as Chairman or Member of different Committees and Boards at State and National levels. He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Nigeria Institution of Agricultural Engineers of Britain, and member of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the Nigerian Agricultural Society and Nigerian Forestry Association.

Professor Fola Aboaba was a man of many parts, a father of fathers, and a mentor to many. He will be sorely missed.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

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