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Special Release

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OBITUARY
EMERITUS PROFESSOR MATTHEW OLAPADE OJO
(03 APRIL, 1936 – 15 JUNE, 2010)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olufemi A. Bamiro, FNSE, FAS announces the transition of Emeritus Professor Matthew Olapade Ojo which occurred on Tuesday, 15 June, 2010.

Professor M. Ola Ojo was born on 03 April, 1936 in Ondo town, Ondo State of Nigeria. He had his primary education at St. Matthew Catholic School, Ondo between 1942 and 1950. He attended St. Thomas Aquinas College, Akure (1951-1956) for his West African School Certificate and St. Gregory's College, Lagos (1957-1958) where he obtained the Higher School Certificate. He obtained Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (B.V.M & S.) degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1965, Diploma in Bacteriology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London in 1969 and Ph. D from University of Ibadan in 1976.

Professor Ojo joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Research Fellow in the Department of Veterinary Medicine under the then Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine on 01 October, 1965. He was the pioneer and sole lecturer of Veterinary Microbiology courses for a period of five years. He was awarded Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellowship in 1967, upgraded to Lecturer II in June, 1970 and was given accelerated promotion to the grade of Lecturer I in the Department of Veterinary Pathology in October, 1971. He was promoted Senior Lecturer in January, 1973; Reader in October, 1975 and Professor in December, 1977. He was the pioneer Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology when it was created from the old Department of Veterinary Pathology in 1976. He was the second African to be appointed the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine from 1979 to 1981. He initiated and established postgraduate studies in Veterinary Microbiology in 1978.

Late Professor Ojo voluntarily retired from the service of the University on 01 October, 1986. He however magnanimously accepted a contract appointment offered to him by the Council of the University of Ibadan from 01 April 1996 to 30 Sept. 2001 to assist in teaching the postgraduate students when the Department was short-staffed. He was appointed Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Microbiology by the Council of the University of Ibadan in 2004.

A vibrant scholar, a great scientist, an effective teacher and life motivator, late Professor Ojo served as a Visiting Professor to many tertiary institutions both at home and abroad. These included:

- (i) Department of Microbiology, University of Benin (1982-1983)
- (ii) Department of Biological Sciences, Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (April- July 1986)
- (iii) Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Jos (Aug. 1986- Aug. 1987)
- (iv) University of Prince Edward Island, Canada (1987- 1990)
- (v) University of the West Indies, Trinidad Campus (1991-1995)

He was also appointed as Honorary Consultant in Microbiology and Visiting Professor at Ogun State University Teaching Hospital, Shagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria (1986-1991).

He was a member of various International Scientific Organizations and Fellow of many Professional bodies. He won many scholarships, published many books and contributed to many scholarly publications at local, national and international levels.

He is survived by wife, Mrs. A.B. Ojo and children.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.

The burial arrangements will be announced by the family.

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