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Special Release

23 May, 2013

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR SEGUN OLUMUYIWA ODUNUGA (30 November, 1937 - 13 April, 2013)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor I. F. Adewole, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Segun Olumuyiwa Odunuga, a retired Professor of Russian Studies. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 13 April, 2013.

Professor Segun Odunuga, was born in Ijebu-Ode on November 30, 1937. He attended St. Saviours's Primary School, Ijebu-Ode between 1943 and 1951. In 1952, he entered Ijebu Ode Grammar School and graduated in 1957. He later had a brief stint as a Clerk at the Nigerian Railway Headquarters from where he joined the services of Daily Service newspaper at Apongbon, Lagos as a Proof Reader and later as Provincial Correspondent, when the paper's title was converted to Daily Express. In his bid to further his education, Segun Odunuga (in 1965) proceeded to Patrice Lumumba (now Friendship University), Moscow, on Soviet Government Scholarship (former USSR), and in 1965, graduated with a Master's degree in Philology. While in Moscow, Segun Odunuga also obtained a Diploma in Translation (Russian & English) in May, 1965. In 1966, Segun Odunuga joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages, now known as European Studies.

In his quest for academic excellence, Professor Segun Odunuga once again, proceeded to the former USSR, (Russia) where he bagged a Ph.D from his Alma Mater in November 1968, and returned to the University of Ibadan to continue his teaching career where he rose to the exalted position of Professor in 1985.

Late Professor Odunuga was a scholar of international repute. He held various positions in international organizations. It is worthy of mention that in 1980, Professor Odunuga became the first African to win the highly coveted and prestigious Pushkin Medal for outstanding Teachers of Russian. He was Vice-President, International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature (1976-86); Vice-President, Federation Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (1978-86), Vice-President and Member of Board of Directors of AIMAV (1980), Secretary-General, West African Association of Teachers of Russian (1977), Secretary-General, West African Modern Languages Association (1981), Member, Association of Teachers of Russian of Great Britain, Member, American Council of Teachers of Russian, Associate Senior Fellow, African Centre for Development & Strategic Studies (ACDESS), (1997), United Nations Consultant and Resource Person, Regional Consultative Workshop on Comprehending and Managing African Conflicts, Bamako, Mali (1998), Secretary, Nigerian Academy of Letters, (1998-2002), Vice President, Nigerian Academy of Letters (2004-2006) and President, Nigerian Academy of Letters (2006-2008).

Professor Odunuga served the University and other institutions/organizations in various capacities. He was Sub-Dean, Faculty of Arts, (1974-1976), Head, Department of European Studies, (1979-1983), and (1992-1997), Director, Audio-Visual Centre, UI (1983-1985),

Member of Senate (1970-2003), Member of Council, (1979-1984), Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan, (1997-1999), Dean, Faculty of Arts, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye (April, 2001- August 2003). He was Chairman, Body of Managers, Abadina Schools, UI, (1969-2003), Chairman, Board of Governors, Abadina College, Ibadan (1982-2003), Director, Ogun State Broadcasting Corporation (1980-1983), Chairman, Appointments and Promotions Board, Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu (2001), External Examiner, Department of Foreign Languages, Russian Unit, University of Lagos for several years.

An outstanding scholar, Professor Odunuga had well over forty (40) local and international publications in books, monographs and academic journals. He was a columnist in the Tribune newspapers for a long time under the pseudonym *Victor Shegunov*, and also in the defunct Daily Sketch newspaper.

He was a versatile and well respected scholar who not only published on Russian Studies, but on world politics, economy and history. He was a polyglot with excellent command of Russian, English and Yoruba and a working knowledge of French. He was one time Chairman of Nigerian Association of University Teachers that later metamorphosed into ASUU, UI, and President of the Staff Club, UI.

Prof. Odunuga institutionalized the teaching of Russian Studies at the University of Ibadan, as well as the University of Lagos. He was, therefore, regarded as the father of Russian studies in Nigeria, and indeed, in Africa, being acclaimed the first Professor of Russian in Sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Odunuga retired from the University of Ibadan in 2004 and continued his teaching and research career at the Olabisi Onabanjo University where he was instrumental to its founding and resided in Ijebu-Ode, his home town, where he was bestowed with the chieftaincy title of Otunba Awujale of Ijebuland.

Late Professor Odunuga was happily married with children and grandchildren. He served with charismatic vigour, dedication and patriotism in community and church affairs. He died in his home town, Ijebu –Ode on 13 April, 2013

May his gentle soul rest in peace, Amen.

Burial Arrangements:

Monday 27 – Thursday 30 May, 2013

Service of Songs at his residence, No. 33, Erunwon Road, GRA, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, 4-7:00p.m. daily.

Monday, 27 May, 2013

Evening of Tributes by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan at Quadrangle, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, 5:00p.m.

Friday, 31 May, 2013

Wake at the Cathedral Church of Our Saviour, Italowajoda, Ijasi, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, 5-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 01 June, 2013

Funeral Service at the Cathedral Church of Our Saviour, 10:00a.m.

Sunday, 02 June, 2013

Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral Church of Our Saviour, 10:00a.m.

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