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Special Release

09 August, 2011

## **OBITUARY**

### **PROFESSOR OLAOLU BABALOLA (06 JANUARY, 1940 – 20 JUNE, 2011)**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole, announces with deep regret, the death of Professor Olaolu Babalola, the first Professor of Soil Physics and first Provost, of the defunct College of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Monday, 20 June, 2011 at the age of 71 years.

Born on 06 January, 1940 in Nigeria, late Professor Babalola graduated from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in 1965. He subsequently attended Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA, where he obtained an M.Sc. in Soil Physics in 1967. He joined the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria in 1967 as a Research Officer and rose to the position of Assistant Technical Officer in 1960. Professor Babalola joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Lecturer II in 1969. He became Senior Lecturer in 1975 and in 1981, became the first Professor of Soil Physics, University of Ibadan.

Professor Babalola's work and immense contributions to the study of Soil Physics and Soil Water Conservation cannot be over-emphasized. He attracted to the University of Ibadan, a World Bank Research Grant to execute one of the priority projects of the Federal Government on Sand Dune Stabilization in Northern Nigeria. Professor Babalola was one of the 32 Scientists in the country who won the Research Grant Award under the World-Bank assisted National Agricultural Research Project (NARP). He was an international collaborator on global research on the "*Use of Neutron Thermalization Technique In Soil Water Studies*" under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency between 1972 and 1978.

He was the Director, University of Ibadan Consultancy Services between 1987 and 1988. Professor Babalola was the Head, Department of Agronomy,

University of Ibadan between 1988 and 1990, and Editor-in-Chief of the *Nigerian Journal of Soil Science* for fifteen years.

In 2002, late Professor Babalola was appointed to the First Bank Plc. Professorial Chair of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan where he carried out research on Vetiver System Technology as a means of erosion control in Nigeria. He published a book entitled “*Soil Erosion Problem in Nigeria*”: *The Use of Vetiver System Technology*.

He passed on to glory on 20 June, 2011 at the University College Hospital (UCH). He is survived by his wife and four children.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**Monday 08 August, 2011** – Gideons International, Service of Songs at 5.00p.m. **Venue:** 14, Gbola Owo-Egbeleke Avenue, Ashi Bodija, Ibadan

**Wednesday, 10 August, 2011** – Men and Women’s League, Service of Songs at 5.00 p.m., **Venue:** 14, Gbola Owo-Egbeleke Avenue, Ashi, Bodija, Ibadan

**Thursday, 11 August, 2011** – Faculty Lying In State, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, University of Ibadan, **Time:** 2.00 p.m.

**Service of Songs** – John Paul II Hall, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church, University of Ibadan, **Time:** 5.00 p.m.

**Friday, 12 August, 2011** – University Lying In State, Trenchard Hall, **Time:** 8.30 a.m.

**Burial Service** – Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan, **Time:** 10.00 a.m.

**Interment at the Chapel of the Resurrection Parks and Gardens, Ojoo, Ibadan.**

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