OBITUARY

EMERITUS PROFESSOR J. O. C. EZEILO, CON
(17 January, 1930 – 04 January, 2013)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor I. F. Adewole, FAS, announces the transition of Emeritus Professor J. O. C. Ezeilo. The sad event occurred on Friday, 04 January, 2013.


Emeritus Professor Ezeilo started his academic career as a Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Ibadan in 1958 and rose to the rank of a full Professor of Mathematics in 1964. In 1963, he was a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA and from 1966 - 1988, Professor of Mathematics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; In 1979, he was a Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor of Mathematics, Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA and in 1980 a Visiting Professor of Mathematics, Howard University, Washington DC, USA. Between 1967 and 1978, at the University of Nigeria, he was Head, Department of Mathematics; Acting Vice-Chancellor and Vice- Chancellor from 1978 to 1979, he was also the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors (of Nigerian Universities). From 1988 to 1994, he was the founding Director, National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, Nigeria.

Late Emeritus Professor Ezeilo published not less than 87 scientific papers in learned journals. Also, he won various academic prizes and awards. These include: University Major Scholar, University College, Ibadan, Nigeria (1949-1953); Ayrton Premium Award for a publication in the 1963 proceedings of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (U.K.) (1964); National Honour of the Commander of the Order of the Niger by the Federal Military Government (1979); a commemorative plaque of the Nigerian Mathematical Society for "outstanding pioneering contributions to the advancement of Mathematics in Nigeria"; the Gold Medal of the National
Mathematical Centre for pioneering contributions to the development of Mathematics and in 2010, the Distinguished Professor Award by the National Universities Commission, Abuja.

He served the public in the following areas: Member, Nigerian Council for Science and Technology (1970-1975); Chairman, Projects Development Agency of the East Central State of Nigeria (1970-1974); Chairman of the Review Panel for the Mathematical curriculum for the Secondary Schools of the Federation (1978); Member, National Merit Award Committee (1979); Member, Board of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (1983-1989); Member, University of Abuja Planning Panel (1983); Chairman, Council of the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, Nigeria (1986-1990); Chairman, University of Abuja Planning Committee (1987); Representative of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Trieste, Italy for the West African Region (1990-1997); Member of the Scientific Council of ICTP Trieste, Italy (1993-1997); Member of the Scientific Council of Institut de Recherche Mathematiques, Abidjan and Member of the Scientific Council of Institut de Mathematiques et de Sciences Physiques of Porto Novo, Benin Republic.

Late Emeritus Professor Ezeilo was also: Member, Nigerian Mathematical Society (President 1981-1991); Member, Mathematical Association of Nigeria (President 1972-1974); Member, Mathematical Association of America; Member, London Mathematical Society; Member, Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics; Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Third World Academy of Sciences; Fellow, African Academy of Sciences and Fellow, Mathematical Association of Nigeria.

Emeritus Professor J.O.C. Ezeilo positively touched many souls in his life. He was married with four children. He died on January 4, 2013.

May his soul rest in perfect peace. (Amen).