



4549

Special Release

11 January, 2023

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR TAL-HATU KOLAPO HAMZAT (1970 – 2023)

Professor of Neurological Physiotherapy

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Tal-hatu Kolapo Hamzat, former University Orator and a past Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Wednesday, 11 January, 2023. He was aged 52 years.

Late Professor Hamzat was born on 15 June, 1970 in Ibadan. He obtained a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree with Second Class-Upper Division in March, 1994. He obtained a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree in Physiology of Exercise in May, 1998 and a PhD in Neurological Physiotherapy in February, 2001. His professional academic career started at the Department of Physiotherapy College of Medicine, University of Ibadan on 23 August, 2001 as a Lecturer-I and was promoted a Senior Lecturer on the 01 October, 2004. On 01 October, 2009, as a high flyer, he was promoted from the rank of Senior lecturer to the grade of Professor of Physiotherapy. He served as Head, Department of Physiotherapy from 01 August, 2014 to 31 July, 2018.

Professor T. K. Hamzat served the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and the College of Medicine of the University of Ibadan in many capacities: as Sub-Dean (Nursing and Physiotherapy), Sub-Dean Postgraduate; and as Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Clinical Coordinator in the Department of Physiotherapy. He later served as Head of Department of Physiotherapy, among others.

He held the record-setting honour of being the first to obtain a Ph.D. degree in Physiotherapy from any West African University. He taught and mentored students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels in physiotherapy and medical sciences at the University of Ibadan, the University of Ghana (as a Visiting Scholar where he helped develop Ghana's premier degree programme in physiotherapy) and the University of Maiduguri as a Visiting Professor. He successfully supervised or co-supervised the research theses/dissertations of 24 Bachelors of Physiotherapy; 38 M.Sc. Physiotherapy; and eight PhD degree candidates, and published more than 100 scientific articles. The

respect he commanded in the national and international communities of scholars and clinicians have earned him, among others, the following honorific titles: Fellow, African Academy of Sciences (FAAS); Fellow, Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (FNSP); Fellow, Ergonomic Society of Nigeria (FESN); Fellow, Postgraduate Physiotherapy College of Nigeria (FPPCN); and Fellow, Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC).

He was passionate about our collective heritage-the University of Ibadan, a global leader in tertiary education and a forerunner in the knowledge generation, sharing and application industry. He contributed to the advancement of the University of Ibadan, through productive academic and administrative leadership, managing human and material resources in different capacities. He was the Hall Master of Alexander Brown Hall, Chairman and Convener of more than 40 standing and ad-hoc committees and panels, consistently discharging his duties within the rules, regulations and traditions of the University. He was appointed and served as the University Orator between 2015 and 2020, a role in which he brought to bear the hard work, dutifulness, diligence and devotion to duty which had made him such an outstanding success in his illustrious and very brilliant career.

His activities as a bridge-builder between the staff, students and other stakeholders of the University in the course of his duties have been recognised.

Professor Hamzat was a member, Board of the UCH Ibadan; Board of Otunba Tunwase National Paediatric Hospital, Ijebu-Ode and a member, Board of Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

May Allah comfort his nuclear and extended family, his friends, and members of his academic and professional communities.

The remains of Professor Hamzat have since been buried according to Islamic rites.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

●●● END ●●●