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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR AJIBOLA OMOLOLA FALAYE (NEE SOETAN) (1958-2024)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Ajibola Omolola Falaye, a distinguished Professor of Guidance and Counselling with specialization in Developmental Psychology of the Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan. She was aged 66 years.

Late Prof. Ajibola Omolola Falaye (nee Soetan) was born on March 25, 1958 into the family of Pa Adegunle and Ajiun Soetan of Abeokuta, Egbaland. She attended Sacred Hearts Primary School, Onireke, Ibadan (1964-1970) and St. Louis Grammar School, Ibadan (1970-1974), and later went to International School, Ibadan for her A Levels programme.

Professor Ajibola Falaye was admitted to the Department of History, University of Ibadan in 1976 and graduated with B.A. History (Hons) in 1979. She won the Federal Government of Nigeria Bursary Award for the degree programme. After a stint as a teacher at Kabba Teachers' College in the former Kwara State (1979-1980) as a Youth Corps member, and at the Abadina College, University of Ibadan between 1980 and 1981 as a full-time teacher, she changed the course of her career.

As a classroom teacher for Form 3, she saw boys and girls transforming into adolescents. She noticed with interest that the changes that occurred were not only in their physiological frame but also in the behavioural transformation which aroused her interest. This informed her decision to obtain a Master's degree in the Department of Guidance and Counselling, University of Ibadan in 1982, and capped it with a Ph.D in Developmental Psychology in 1990. She later obtained a PGDE Certificate in 2010.

Prof. Falaye started her lecturing career at the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye in 1982. After rising to the rank of a Senior Lecturer in the University, she transferred her service to the Department of Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan on 01 August, 1996, where she rose through the cadres and became a Professor of Developmental Psychology in 2008. She was Head of the Department between 2004–2006, and the representative of Senate on the Board of the Institute of Education from 01 August, 2016 to 31 July, 2017.

While on accumulated leave and sabbatical leave, Late Professor Ajibola Falaye served as Acting Head, Department of Counselling Psychology, Tai Solarin University between 2005 and 2006, and Head, Department of Guidance and Counselling, Lead City University between October, 2013 and October, 2015.

Late Professor Ajibola Falaye was the Coordinator, Masters in Personnel Psychology programme (1996 to 2000); Member, LOC, UNESCO National workshop on teaching and learning in Higher Education and Inauguration of UNESCO Chair in Adult Education, University of Ibadan in 1998; Departmental representative on Curriculum Committee, Faculty of Education; Member, Finance Committee, Department of Guidance and Counselling, University of Ibadan, 1997 to 2005; Member, Faculty of Education Common Room Committee, University of Ibadan, 1998; Member, Faculty of Education Postgraduate Committee, 1997 to 2024; Faculty Representative on Senate/Council Committee for Honorary Degrees and Awards, 1997/98; Member, University of Ibadan Women Society; Counsellor, University of Ibadan Women Society, Counselling in Halls of Residence Programme–Mellanby Hall, and Member, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan Fund-Raising Sub-Committee constituted on September 13, 1999.

At different times, Late Professor Ajibola Falaye served as external examiner, and on accreditation panels in many tertiary institutions in Nigeria. She has also served as a team member on:

1. Assessment of SUBBEB implementation of the UBE Programme using 2006 intervention funds.
2. UNICEF-NEGSEMA workshop on development of manuals on gender sensitivity and sexuality.
3. NCCE Accreditation team to Colleges of Education, among others.

Professor Ajibola Omolola Falaye's researches were focused on child development, adolescent development, including child and adolescent mental health. She also served professionally in the education sector as supervisor of counselling services as

well as visiting counselling Psychologist to health centres and remediation centres such as juvenile homes. She participated in various sponsored projects related to educational development and quality assurance in Nigeria.

Through the Network for Gender Sensitive Education Management in Africa, she participated in gender-related studies, such as arresting school dropout rates among girls (and boys) under the auspices of the British Council and the writing of gender-sensitive educational materials under the auspices of the UNICEF.

Late Professor Ajibola Falaye was also an author of several books on counselling and developmental psychology.

Besides her career and academic achievements, Late Professor Ajibola Falaye was a devoted Christian and a clergy's wife. She greatly impacted everyone she came in contact with and will be dearly missed by many.

The then young Ajibola got married to Tiwatola Falaye on September 29, 1990. Their marriage was blessed with two children. She is survived by her husband, children and grandchildren, sisters, brother, nieces, nephews and cousins.

May her soul rest in peace.

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