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Special Release

29 March, 2023

## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR BEATRICE OLABIMPE ABOYADE (1935 - 2023)**

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Beatrice Olabimpe Aboyade, a distinguished retired staff of the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies (LARIS), University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Friday, 03 March, 2023. She was aged 87 years.

Professor Beatrice Olabimpe Aboyade was born on 24 August 1935, to the family of Omooba T. A. Johnson Odubanjo of Agbo-Ile Lawusi, Ita Olowajoda in Ijebu-Ode. Papa Johnson Odubanjo was himself the grandson of Jagun Alausa of Imupa Ijebu-Ode, who became the first Olowu of Owu Ijebu. This Jagun Alausa was a descendant of Oba Osimore of Ijasi Ijebu-Ode, one of the first three founding Obas of Ijebu-Ode- along with two other Obas of Iwade and Porogun areas of Ijebu- Ode. Bimpe Aboyade was born of the same parents as the late Otunba Delphus Adebayo Odubanjo, one-time Agent General (High Commissioner) in the U.K; and Otunba Morolake Degun, the late Iyalode of Ijebu land.

As Beatrice Olabimpe Odubanjo, she attended Christ Church Porogun School, Ijebu-Ode for her primary education from 1942-1948, Queen's College Lagos, and Queen's School Ede, for her secondary education from 1949-1953. She was admitted in 1955 to the University College, Ibadan which at that time was a College of the University of London, where she passed the inter-B.A. examination in 1957 with flying colours, and thus became a College Scholar of the university. Thereafter, she was admitted into the B.A. Honours English class, graduating in 1960, the year of Nigeria's independence. Among her classmates was Mr. Ayo Bamgbose (now Professor Ayo Bamgbose).

Bimpe Odubanjo then started a career as a broadcaster in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) first as a Continuity Announcer and later as a Talks Programme Producer. She was proud to be a junior of the likes of late Rev. Victor Badejo, Rev. Yinka Olumide, Mr. Michael Olumide, Engineer (now Bishop) George Bako, Mr. Emmanuel Omatsola, Mr. Christopher Kolade, Mr. Yemi Lijadu, Mr. Sunday Young-Harry, Mr. Joseph Atuona, Mr. Kunle Alakija and such other great pioneers in the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. She also had the luck and honour to be one of the Continuity Studio Announcers on duty on 01 October, 1960 announcing and reporting the special

programmes lined up for that great day in our Nation's history.

Bimpe got married on Easter Day, April 2, 1961 to Dr. Ojetunji Aboyade, who had just finished his studies in Economics at the University of Cambridge, England and was a lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Ibadan. As a result of this marriage, Bimpe Aboyade had to move from Lagos and her job at the NBS to Ibadan, where she was attracted to a job in the University Library. In the course of her career as a Librarian, she obtained a Ford Scholarship in 1963 to study Library Science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor U.S.A, where her husband was serving as an Assistant Professor at the time. She obtained her Master's degree in Library Science in 1964 and was among those honoured by her school with admission into the Honour Society of Phi Kappa Phi of the U.S. Later in 1985 her school also presented her with the Alumni Recognition Award "in recognition of her international leadership in the library profession".

On her return to Nigeria and while still working in the University Library, she got attracted back into the Department of English to study for a Ph.D. Programme in English Literature on a part-time basis. At this time, only two students - herself and Ayo Banjo (now Professor Ayo Banjo) were being supervised by the same Visiting Professor in the Ph.D. Programme - Ayo Banjo in English Language and Bimpe Aboyade in English Literature. In this, she set a record as she became the First Nigerian or African Woman (South of the Sahara) to obtain a Ph.D. in English Literature in 1970.

In 1972 she was invited to join the academic staff of the then recently established Library School in the Faculty of Education as a Senior Lecturer, from where she rose to become an Associate Professor in 1976, and a Professor in 1978. She succeeded Professor Adetowun Ogunsheye as Head of Department, first from 1977-1979. She was again reappointed as Head from 1980-1983 and 1985-1988, making three times as the Head, which created another record in the University.

During her years as Head of Ibadan University Library School, the Department was expanded from being just the Department of Library Studies to the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies (LARIS) thus incorporating the training of professional Archivists and Information Scientists as well as Librarians for the first time in Nigeria.

Professor Bimpe Aboyade retired from the University of Ibadan in 1990. Before then she was a Visiting Professor at the School of Information Science, Syracuse University, New York, U.S.A. from 1989-1990. She has also been a Consulting Expert on information management to a number of International Agencies and institutions including the UNESCO and the World Bank. An advocate of good governance, she was a member of the Advisory Council of the International Organization of Forum of Federations. She was appointed the first Chairman of the newly created Oyo State Library Board by Colonel Adetunji Idowu Olurin in 1987. She was a recipient of the award of "A Trailblazer for Women" from the Women Organisation of Nigeria.

Professor Bimpe Aboyade was the Chairman of the Development Policy Centre in Ibadan. This is an international Think – Tank and a Research Centre for capacity building in

formulating development policies and training in development projects. The Centre was founded by her late husband Professor Ojetunji Aboyade with the support of the World Bank.

**Burial arrangements:**

The family has scheduled the arrangement of the burial as follows:

**Christian Wake:**

Thursday, 30 March, 2023

**Venue:** Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan.

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Lying-in-state:**

Friday, 31 March, 2023

**Venue:** Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Funeral Service:**

Friday, 31 March, 2023

**Venue:** Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Private Internment:**

Friday, 31 March, 2023

Funeral reception by invitation only, immediately after the Church service

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