



4623

Special Release

10 July, 2023

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR CYRIL AGODI ONWUMECHILI (1932 - 2023)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, announces the transition of Professor Cyril Agodi Onwumechili, a former staff of the Department of Physics, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Tuesday, 16 May, 2023. He was aged 91 years.

Born on January 20, 1932 at Inyi town, in Oji River, now in Enugu State, Nigeria, Professor Cyril Agodi Onwumechili completed his secondary education at King's College, Lagos (1944 – 1948) with an outstanding result and was immediately admitted into the Department of Physics, University of Ibadan in 1949. He obtained B.Sc. Physics (First Class Honours) in 1953 and a Master's degree from the University of Ibadan in 1954. He also received a Doctorate degree from the University of London in 1957 after completing his work on *Geomagnetic Variations near the Dip Equator*. He began his university lecturing career at the University of Ibadan immediately after obtaining his Ph.D. in 1957 and was promoted to the grade of Professor in 1962 at the age of 30 years, thus becoming the youngest Nigerian professor to date.

Professor Onwumechili served meritoriously as the Dean of Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan between 1965 and 1966. As an exceptional scholar, renowned for his groundbreaking research, Professor Onwumechili was the first Nigerian Geophysicist and one of the foremost Fellows of the Nigerian Academy of Science. He was the second President of the Academy, elected in 1979.

Professor Onwumechili left the University of Ibadan in 1966 to join the services of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka as Head of the Department of Physics from where he was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife, in 1979.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

●●● END ●●●