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Special Release

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR RICHARD OLAYIWOLA FAGBENLE

(17 January, 1943 – 10 June, 2019)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor A.I. Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Richard Olayiwola Fagbenle, a retired staff in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Monday, 10 June, 2019.

Late Professor Richard Olayiwola Fagbenle, FNSE, FESN, FNAEE, MASME, MASHRAE was born on 17 January, 1943 to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Fagbenle (now of blessed memory) of Igbajo, Osun State. He obtained WAEC School Leaving Certificate Grade 1 from Igbobi College, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria and WAEC Advanced Level, Government College, Ugbelli, Delta State, Nigeria in 1961 and 1963, respectively. He, thereafter, proceeded to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where he obtained Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mechanical Engineering in 1967. In 1969, he had his Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. In 1973, he acquired Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Mechanical Engineering, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

In 1967, Late Professor Fagbenle started his work career as a Teaching Assistant at the Engineering Mechanics Department, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA. In 1969 – 1972, he worked as Teaching and Research Assistant in Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA. In 1972 – 1973, he was a Presidential Postdoctoral Research Appointee, US Atomic Energy Commission, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Lemont, Illinois, USA. He was employed as a Lecturer in 1973 at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.

The Late Professor Fagbenle strong passion to contribute his quota to the development of his dear country made him returned to Nigeria and secured lecturing job in 1974 at Mechanical Engineering Department, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria. Prior to his full service in Nigeria, he had worked as

Engineer-in-Training, New York City in the Department of Public Works, Staten Island Sewage Works, New York City, USA (1966); Engineer, TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., Toronto, Canada (1977-1978); Engineer, Rolls Royce (Canada) Ltd., Industrial and Marine Gas Turbine Division, Montreal, Canada (1977-1978). 1979 – 1981, he served as the Principal Lecturer and Head, Mechanical Engineering Department, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Nigeria. He was appointed as the Founding Director, Iree Satellite Campus of The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo State. The institution has since grown to be one of the largest Polytechnics in Nigeria and it is now Osun State Polytechnic, Iree, Osun State, Nigeria, since the creation of Osun State from the old Oyo State in 1981. In 1989, he became Senior Lecturer at the Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He served as Acting Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering (1990 – 1992). In 1993 – 1995, he worked as Senior Visiting Fellow, South Bank University, London, United Kingdom. Also, Senior Visiting Fellow in February– July 1997. He was promoted to full Professorial cadre in 1996. He, thereafter served, as Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1996 – 1998). He served Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Affairs, Gaborone, Botswana both as First Director of Energy Affairs (1998-2000) and First Energy Advisor (2000-2001). He also served as Professor and Head, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Ibadan (2002 – 2003). In June 2007 – October 2008, he again served as Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ibadan. He retired on the age-limit basis in October 2008, although requested by the University to assist until a new Acting Head (Then, Dr Oluwole O.O.) was appointed much later in the year. In November, 2003 he was appointed the Founding Provost and Professor, College of Engineering and Technology, Olabisi Onabanjo University, OOU, Ibogun Campus, Ibogun, Ogun State, Nigeria. This was a brand new College of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, which he was invited by the Vice-Chancellor of the OOU, Ago-Iwoye main campus, to help establish in the rural village setting of Ibogun, the homestead of former President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

He had worked as an Adjunct Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. He taught postgraduate courses in ThermoDynamics, Heat Transfer, Fluid Mechanics, and Compressible Fluid Flow for the young lecturers of the then new Covenant University's Mechanical Engineering Department in 2005-2007. Between 2007 and 2015, he supervised the PhD research of three of the young lecturers. The PhD Theses of two of the three were acclaimed among the best at Covenant. In the 3rd week of December 2017, the promotion to Professorial grade of these three young lecturers in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Covenant University was simultaneously announced by Covenant University. The former Doctoral students of Professor Fagbenle are now Professors O. O. Ajayi, S. O. Oyedepo and O. S. Ohunakin, Between October 2008 – October, 2014, late Professor Fagbenle was on contract appointment at the Mechanical Engineering, Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria, where he taught postgraduate courses and supervised postgraduate students' research.

Since 2008, he engaged in teaching and supervision of PhD research students as an adjunct Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan. As a matter of fact, one of his research students at the Department, Mr Leye Amoo did his M.Phil/Ph.D Conversion examination on 7 June, 2019 while the erudite Professor passed on 10 June, 2019 (Just few days Later!!!). He was also at the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law (CPEEL) University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He worked as Professor and Course Coordinator since 2012 of CEE 716 - Environment and Climate Change Economics at the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics

and Law (CPEEL); a Co-Editor with the Director of the CPEEL (Prof. Adeola Adenikinju), of the 64-page 1st Edition of CPEEL's "Nigerian Energy Report and Outlook 2015", University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. He was Appointed Chairman of the CPEEL Scientific Advisory Board in August 2016. Late Professor Fagbenle delivered his inaugural lecture titled '*Energy, Exergy, The Environment and The Future*' at the University of Ibadan on 13 June, 2002. His inaugural Lecture also appeared in the University of Ibadan Book "Inaugural Lectures, Volume II (1998 – 2002)".

He was a member of many professional/academic bodies and recipient of several international scholarships. He was Fellow, Nigerian Society of Engineers; Fellow, Solar Energy Society of Nigeria; Fellow, Nigerian Association of Energy Economists; Fellow, International Solar Energy Society (UK Section, Member); Member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was a recipient of Pi Tau Sigma – US Mechanical Engineering Honour Society 1966; Recipient of an undergraduate scholarship of the African Scholarship Program for American Universities (ASPAU) for study at the University of Illinois, 1964–1967. Until his death, he was the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Osun State College of Engineering and Technology, Esa-Oke, Osun State, Nigeria since 2013. The College under his Governing Council undertook a Retreat for the Council members, the College Management and some key private sector resource people to brainstorm on exponentially increasing the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) base of the College to support planned expansion and human resource development projects of the Governing Council in their 4-year development plan. The College also had its first ever high-rise building on any of the four campuses of the four Osun State tertiary institutions when the 3-storey TETFund-funded Library building which began in September 2013 was completed and commissioned in record time in September 2014. A second 2-storey TETFund-funded project at the College was completed and commissioned in November 2016. The College also mounted several new programmes and courses since during his Council Chairmanship reign in response to the needs of the State and the national economy. The College was selected as host to the Bola Ige Mechatronics Project of the State of Osun and was one of only three such Mechatronics Centres on the African continent as of 2015.

Until his demise last month, he had published more than one hundred and fifty-one (151) refereed scientific and technical article papers in journals and international conference proceedings.

Late Professor Fagbenle is survived by wife, children, siblings and in-laws.

May his soul rest in peace.

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