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Special Release

29 June, 2020

OBITUARY
EMERITUS PROFESSOR JONATHAN ADETOYE FANIRAN
(1st August, 1935 - 24th June, 2020)

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Professor A. I Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Emeritus Professor Jonathan Adetoye Faniran, a staff in the Department of Geography, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan. The event occurred on Wednesday, 26 June, 2020.

Late Professor Faniran was born in Alagba's Compound, Ola near Ejigbo, Osun State on the 1st August, 1935 to the family of Faniran. He had his early education in Baptist Day School, Ola via Ejigbo between 1946 and 1952 and at Baptist Day School, Ola via Ejigbo, Osun State, in 1946-1952. He later attended Government Teacher Training College, Ibadan between 1954 and 1957.

His University undergraduate education was at the University of Ibadan where he obtained his B.A (Hons) in Geography in 1964. During his undergraduate, he was a recipient of the prestigious Adeola Odutola College Undergraduate Scholarship (1961-1964) and also the recipient of the University of Ibadan, Department of Geography Best Student Prize (1963/64 Session). He obtained Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Sydney, Australia in 1969. During his Ph.D. programme, he was a recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (Australia) between 1966-1968. He was also a recipient of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fullbright-Hays) Senior African Scholars Research Programme (April-July, 1976), and also Deutscher Akademischer Austranschdienst (DAAD) Short-Term Study Visit, University of Koln, Germany, (February – March, 1994). He also obtained a Certificate in Ministerial Formation, from the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary (NBTS), Ogbomoso in 2002.

Late Professor Faniran joined the service of the University of Ibadan in September 1968 as Lecturer Grade II and rose to the position of Professor on 1st October, 1978. Emeritus Professor Faniran attended and presented papers at numerous national and international conferences/congresses. Two themes dominate his professional life, namely, geomorphology/physical environment and theology of creation and environment. He had, as of the last count, authored/co-authored/edited/co-edited over 30 books/ monographs and 150 articles in local and international journals and chapters in books. He delivered his inaugural lecture entitled "A Geomorphologist's View Point on the Man and Nature Controversy", on

behalf of the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan on the 22nd March, 1984 and retired from the University of Ibadan on September 30, 2003. Later, in August 2004, he was appointed an Emeritus Professor of Geography.

He was a visiting Assistant Professor, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, U.S.A. (Sept. – Dec. 1971), Visiting Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Wisconsin, Madison (March – August, 1976), Visiting Fellow, Department of Geography, Australia National University, Canberra, ACT (July – October, 1986), Visiting Professor and Head, Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye (1st October, 1986 to 30th September, 1987).

Emeritus Professor Faniran belonged to a number of local and international professional/cum academic learned societies, including: The Nigerian Geographical Association (now Association of Nigerian Geographers), (since 1963), the Geographical Society of New South Wales (Australia), (since 1965), the Nigerian Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Society, (since 1969), International Water Resources Association (since 1972), British Geomorphological Research Team, (since 1981), Nigerian Geomorphological Working Group (Founder), 1986, International Council for Higher Education (ICHE) West Africa (since 2010), Sacred Earth Ministry (Founder), 2001, and Man & Nature Study/Action Centre (Founder), 1994.

Within the University of Ibadan, he was the Assistant Hall Warden, Sultan Bello Hall (1972-74), Head of Department of Geography, University of Ibadan (1st October, 1979–31st July, 1983), Member, University of Ibadan Development Committee (1980 -1983), Faculty representative Curriculum Committee (1981-1982), Member, Ajibode Land Allocation Committee (1983), Chairman, Task Force on Queen Elizabeth Hall Fire Disaster, (1990), and Dean, Faculty of the Social Sciences (1989-1991), Hall Master, Sultan Bello Hall (January 17th 1997 to 30th April, 2002) and Member of Senate, University of Ibadan.

He served the old Oyo State government as a member of the Osun N.W Area planning authority (1975-77), Economic Advisory Council (1976-77), Oyo State Chapter, Action Against Apartheid (1977), and Oyo state Executive Council (1977). He was the Commissioner of Health (April 1st 1977 - November 1977), Commissioner for Works and Housing (December 1977-September, 1978) and Commissioner for Trade, Industries and Cooperatives (September 1978- September 1979) of the old Oyo State.

He was a man of diverse attainments and great accomplishments. Professor Faniran was installed Mayegun of Ola, Osun State (1980) and also Atunluto of Ede, Osun State (1981). He was invested Fellow, Nigerian Geographical Association (1982), included in *“Who is Who” in Education, International Biographical Centre (IBC) Cambridge, U. K (1986)*, Included in *International Register of Profiles*, 9th Edition, IBC Cambridge (1987), Appointed Editorial Adviser, *Progress in Physical Geography*, Edward Arnold, London (1987), Included in *Men of Achievement*, 12th Edition, IBC, Cambridge, U. K. (1988), Member, Grand Council of the Confederation of Chivalry, Australia (1988), Inclusion in Earth Science Process Centre, King’s College, University of London, Nuffield Chelsea Curriculum Text on School Geography (1989), included in *Men of Achievement*, 14th Edition, IBC, Cambridge, U.K. (1989), included in *500 Personalities of the World*, 2nd Edition, American Bibliographical Institute (ABI) New York

(1989), included in *International Register of Profiles*, 10th Edition, IBC, Cambridge, U. K (1989). He was the President, Rotary Club of Ibadan–Agbowo (1989/90), President, Nigerian Geographical Association (1989/90), Research Adviser of the year, ABI (1990), President, Nigeria National Committee, International Geographical Union (1990-1994), Member Alhaja Sidikat Mosunmola Balogun Trust Fund Board, Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye (Since 1992), Chairman, Ola Progressive Union, Ibadan Branch (1997-2000), Director and Chairman, Ola Community Bank Board of Directors (1997-2005), Member, New York Academy of Science (since 1998), Life Patron, Bible Society of Nigeria, Oyo State (since 1999), Chairman, Osun Forum Planning Committee (1999-2002), Chairman, Organizing Committee, Osun Forum Summit, 2001, Osogbo (2001), Chairman, Organising Committee, 44th Nigerian Geographical Association, July 29 – August 2nd 2001 (2001), Global Missions Board of the Nigerian Baptist Convention Award for Contributions to Mission’s efforts (2003), Vice-President, Osun Forum (2003-2007), Alabaster Foundation International Award for Contributions to Missions (2006), Recipient, Osun State Award for distinguished contributions to education (2007), Ola Youth Association Merit Award (2009) and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Development Watch Initiative (DWI) (since 2009).

Emeritus Professor Faniran was married and blessed with children and grand-children.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

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