



4373

Special Release

16 April, 2021

**PROFESSOR EBENEZER OLUDAYO SOOLA
(02 October, 1946 - 28 February, 2021)**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp, announces, with deep regret, the transition of Professor Ebenezer Oludayo Soola, a retired Professor in the Department of Communication and Language Arts, Faculty of Arts. The sad event occurred on Sunday, 28 February, 2021.

Late Professor Ebenezer Oludayo Soola was born on 2 October, 1946 in Boodo Village, Odeda Local Government, Ogun State. He attended Lisabi Primary School, Abeokuta from 1953–1955 and Holy Prophet School from 1956-1957. He proceeded to Anglican Secondary Modern School between 1960 to 1962 and thereafter, St. Lukes Teacher Training College, Ibadan from 1964–1966.

Late Professor Soola possessed G.C.E O/Level/Advanced Level and gained admission in 1970 to the University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and he graduated in 1973 with a B.A. (Hons.) Second Class Upper Division in English. Thereafter proceeded to Brooklyn College, City University, New York, U.S.A., where he obtained a Master's Degree (M.Sc) in Broadcast Communication in 1979. He was a recipient of the Federal Government Scholarship for Ph.D in Communication Studies in 1983. In 1988, he obtained his Ph.D from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

Late Professor Soola also attended the University of Nairobi, Kenya and University of Reading in 1989/1990, 1990/1991 respectively for different academic pursuits. Over the years, through hard work, he received a long service award for being an Examiner/Chief Examiner for twenty five (25) years in Beginners Communication by the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, (CIBN), among others.

Late Professor Soola worked as a Teacher at St. Phillip's School, Iloro, Ile-Ife (1967–1970). He had his Mandatory National Youth Service in Eastern Nsit Secondary School, Etinan, Cross River State from July 1973 to July 1974. He worked also at Babalola Girl's Grammar School, Ilesa from August – October, 1974 and The Polytechnic, Ibadan November 1974 to 1984.

Late Prof. Soola started his academic career in the University of Ibadan in October, 1984 when he was appointed Lecturer II and promoted to Lecturer I in 1987. He became a Senior Lecturer in October, 1990 and promoted to Reader on 01 October, 2003. He was promoted to the rank of Professor on 01 October, 2010. Throughout this period and up till the moment he passed on, he taught many courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Specifically, he taught such core courses as: Theories of Communication, Research Methods, Development Communication, Business and Organizational Communication, Writing for Specific Purposes, Technical Writing, among others.

He successfully supervised over two hundred (200) Masters Dissertations and Twenty (24) Ph.D Theses two of which he jointly supervised with Professor F.A. Adesanoye and Dr. N. Owens-Ibie. Being a trained teacher,

Late Professor Soola was a very resourceful and skilled communicator who was able to impart knowledge in a stimulating and effective manner.

Evidenced by his list of research activities, Late Professor Soola was either working individually or in collaboration across the Department and Faculty. He was a maiden joint recipient of the University of Ibadan Postgraduate Multidisciplinary Research Award. He also won at different times, personal as well as group Senate Research Grants. Late Professor Soola's research thrust is in the areas of Development Communication, Business/Organizational Communication and Communicative Language Teaching among others.

Professor Soola also held during his lifetime, various Professional Qualifications and Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Reading U.K. (1994) and a Certificate in Communication Policy and Planning for Development from the University of Nairobi, Kenya (1988). He was a highly capable resource person on the Speech Writers Course for the United Nations Children's Fund and other agencies during his life time. He was also an active member of several Professional and Academic bodies..

These include:

- Member, Nigerian Mass Communication Association.
- Member, Communication Association for Education in Journalism and Communication (CAEJAC).
- Member, African Council for Communication Education (ACCE), Nigeria Chapter.
- Member, and National Coordinator, African Council for Communication Education (ACCE), Nigeria Chapter (2004-2008).
- Member, Editorial Board of International Journal of Broadcasting and Communication Technology.
- Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Communication and Aesthetics*
- Member, Editorial Board of Communication and Media Research
- Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Communication and Language Arts*.
- Technical Advisory Board, Journal of Petroleum Natural Gas and Energy Management, (PENGEM).

Late Professor Soola also held several administrative positions: These include:

- ◆ Member, Vice-Chancellor's Representative on the Board of UI Staff School.
- ◆ Member, Committee on the Establishment of Department of Social Work.
- ◆ Head, Department of Communication and Language Arts, 1993 – 1995 and 1998 – 2000.
- ◆ Member, Faculty of Arts, Appointment and Promotions Committee, 1995-1996
- ◆ Member, Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee
- ◆ Member, University Senate 1992/93 – 1993/94; 1998/99 – 2000/2001.
- ◆ Member, Senate Committee on the Library 2000/2001
- ◆ Member, Senate Curriculum Committee 2007/2008 – 2008/2009
- ◆ Member, Academic Board of the Africa Regional Centre for Information Science (ARCIS) 1992 to date.
- ◆ Acting Director, University Media Centre (UMC) 2005 – 2006
- ◆ Member, 50th Anniversary Faculty of Arts Prospectus Committee
- ◆ Member, Council Committee on University of Ibadan Vision and Mission for the 21st Century.
- ◆ Member, Council Committee on the Establishment of University of Ibadan School of Business (UISB).
- ◆ Member, Committee on the Establishment of University of Ibadan Community Radio (Diamond FM).

Late Professor Soola retired from the services of the University of Ibadan on 30 September, 2012. He was, however, granted a contract appointment by the University because of the critical staffing situation in the

Department. A position he held until he attained the age of 70 (Seventy years), in 2016 after which he took a final exit from active service.

Late Professor Soola is survived by his lovely wife, Mrs Stella Oluwayemisi Soola, children, grandchildren and many academic children.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

-END-