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Special Release

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## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR RACHEL BOLAJI ASAGBA (13 February 1953 – 09 March 2021)**

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Rachel Bolaji Asagba, a staff in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan. The sad event occurred on Tuesday, 09 March, 2021.

Late Professor Rachel Bolaji Asagba was born on the 13 February, 1953 at Owo, in Ondo State. She was the only child/daughter of Late Chief Giwa Ademolekun Oloye and Late Madam Ademolawe Oloye (nee Usikaye). She was married to Prof Babatunde Asagba of the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan.

She began her academic journey at Swedeborg Memorial Primary School (Now New Church Primary School) in Ondo State and proceeded to the New Church Grammar School, Iselu, Owo, Ondo State for her secondary school education. Thereafter, she gained admission to the College of Mount St. Vincent Riverdale, Bronx, New York, U.S.A. where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, in 1985. Late Professor Asagba proceeded to the Clayton University, St. Louis Missouri, U.S.A, for a Master's degree and graduated with an M. Sc. Degree in Psychology and Nutrition in 1986. Subsequently, she obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Ibadan in 2002.

Preceding her entry into the University of Ibadan as an academic member of staff, late Professor Asagba had a 10-year clinical experience as a Consultant Psychotherapist at the Medical Counseling Referral Centre, Ojoo, Ibadan. On February 16, 1998 she joined the Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan (UI) from the Department of Guidance and Counseling, UI through an offer of probationary appointment as an Assistant Lecturer. Afterward, she was promoted from the academic position of Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II with effect from 01 October 2000 and her appointment with the University was confirmed to retiring age with effect from 16 February, 2001. Officially, late Professor Asagba became a Lecturer I on October 01, 2003 and was promoted to the grade of Senior Lecturer with effect from 01 October 2006. She rose to the grade of Reader with effect from 01 October, 2013 and was promoted Professor with effect from 1 October, 2016.

During her career in the University, Late Professor Asagba obtained several professional certifications including, the professional psychotherapist certificate in Logo-therapy from the Society for Existential and Logotherapy in Vienna, Austria in 1992; Nutrition and Dietetic Certificate, University of Vienna, Austria; Certificate in Biofeedback Training from the Biofeedback Training Institute, New York, U.S.A.; Certificate in Alcoholism Counseling from the Institute of Alcoholism, Greater New York, U.S.A; the Diabetes Education and Counseling Certificate, Austrian Society for Diabetes, Vienna, Austria; and *Diplomate Clinician* in Logo-therapy from Viktor Frankl, Abilene, Texas, USA in 2013.

Late Professor Asagba served in different administrative positions within the University, mainly in the Department of Psychology and the Faculty of the Social Sciences of our University. In the Department of Psychology, she served as an Assistant Director for the Masters in Managerial Psychology programme; a member of Finance Committee; a Level Coordinator for undergraduate programme; a member of Social and Welfare Committee; a member of Talkfest Committee; and a representative of the Head of Department at different academic and social meetings. At the Faculty level, late Professor Asagba served as the Chairperson, Faculty of the Social Sciences Library Committee. Therefore, and without a doubt, her sudden passing has created a vacuum in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of the Social Sciences, and the University.

Late Professor Asagba, who was very committed to professionalism and career growth, had several local and international publications to her credit. Her research interest straddled the clinical, developmental, and correctional and rehabilitation fields of specialization in psychology, making significant contributions in the areas of logo-therapy and cross-cultural psychology, health issues, substance abuse and gender studies. Particularly, her research works on Logo-therapy popularized the therapeutic technique as an effective procedure for managing psychological problems in Nigeria. Late Professor Asagba's commitment, in this regard, earned her placement in the Austrian Academic Exchange Scholarship Programme for research and a Viktor Frankl Foundation Scholarship Award for research in Logo-therapy.

Late Professor Asagba was a recipient of a number of travel and research grants including the University of Ibadan Senate Research Grant and a travel grant by the West African Research Centre. She was an ardent member of several professional bodies including the American Association of Logotherapy; European Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Therapy; Austrian Dietetic Association; American Psychological Association; and the Nigerian Psychological Association. She regularly attended the conferences/workshops of these bodies and made paper presentations that interrogated contemporary issues from the Nigerian perspective and projected the University's image. Certainly, our prestigious university has lost a great icon.

Late Professor Asagba is survived by her immediate family members including a son and a daughter, and three grandchildren.

May her soul rest in peace, Amen

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