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Special Release

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OBITUARY

Professor Oluwumi Enoch Longe (20 March, 1932 - 14 December, 2020)

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Oluwumi Enoch Longe, the founding Head of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan. The event occurred on Monday, 14 December, 2020.

Late Professor Longe, was born in Ìkéré-Èkìtì, Ekiti State, Nigeria on Sunday, 20 March, 1932 to the family of Late Pa Samuel Longe Odina and Mama Dorcas Owotomo. He attended St. Luke's Primary School, Ìkéré-Èkìtì, Nigeria (1938 – 1946). He was recommended and admitted to Form 2 of Christ's School, Adó-Èkìtì, Nigeria in 1947. At the Christ's School, he was a classmate of the foremost Nigerian neurologist, the late Professor Benjamin Olukayode Osuntokun. He left Christ's School in 1951 having obtained a Grade 1 Cambridge School Certificate. He was employed by the School Principal, the late Rev. Canon Leslie Donald Mason to teach Mathematics and Christian Religious Knowledge from 1952 - 1953. He attended the University College Ibadan from 1954 to 1959 where he earned a B.Sc (Honours) degree in Physics, a subject he encountered and fell in love with for the first time in Ibadan, having been admitted to read Mathematics. He was Principal at Lisabi College, Abeokuta in 1960 and Senior Science Teacher at Lagelu Grammar School, Ibadan from 1961 to 1963. At Lagelu Grammar School, he also taught church music to the school choir. Subsequently, he attended the University of Sydney in Australia from 1963 to 1967 where he earned the M.Sc degree in Computer Science. Prof. Olu Longe made his first encounter with Computer Science at the University of Sydney where he had the foresight to make the change from Physics to the new and more demanding Computer Science, a decision that turned out to be memorable. He worked as the Operations Manager at the UAC Computer Centre at Niger House, Lagos between 1967 and 1968.

He then joined the services of the University of Ibadan as the Director of the University Computing Centre between 1968 and 1978. He did his doctoral studies at the Ohio State University between 1971 and 1974, where he completed and defended his thesis entitled: "An Index of Smoothness for Computer Program Flowgraphs" under the supervision of Professor Clinton R. Foulks and with the support of a Rockefeller Fellowship.

He was the founding Head of Department of Computer Science at the University of Ibadan, a department that started in 1974. He was appointed a full Professor of Computer Science at the University of Ibadan in 1978, becoming the first Professor of Computer Science in black Africa. He retired from the services of the University of Ibadan in 1988, even though he later served as a Professor with the university on contract between 1991 and 1998. He also served as a Professor of Computer Science at the King Saud University in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 1988 and 1991.

Late Professor Longe had over 30 publications to his credit and these include single or jointly-authored books, chapters in books, journal articles, technical reports and papers presented at learned conferences. In retirement, Professor Longe published four scholarly books.

He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Computer Society which he co-founded and served as founding President. He was the pioneer Provost of the College of Fellows of the Nigerian Computer Society. He was also a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, USA and a member of the Science Association of Nigeria.

Professor Longe lived a full and fulfilled life as a teacher, researcher, scholar and professional. He is regarded as pioneer computer scientist by a whole generation of computing professionals and scholars in Nigeria.

He is survived by his wife, Professor Remi S. Longe, a retired Professor of Educational Management from the University of Ibadan, children and grandchildren.

His body will be interred in Ibadan on Friday, 29 January, 2021.

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

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