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Special Release

17 August, 2016

## OBITUARY

### **PROFESSOR RAPHAEL AYORINDE ELEGBE (31 March, 1944 - 14 July, 2016)**

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka FAS, announces with regret the death of Professor Raphael Ayorinde Elegbe, former Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and former Head, Department of Physiology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. The sad event took place on 14 July, 2016.

Late Professor Raphael Ayorinde Elegbe was born in Iboropa, Akoko North East Local government area of Ondo State on Friday, 31 March, 1944 to the family of late Pa Daniel Adepoju Elegbe (a school teacher till his death) and Madam Lydia Elegbe, a petty trader.

Due to the itinerant nature of his father's profession as a teacher, he attended three primary schools: African Church Primary School, Erusu-Akoko (Primary 1-3), St. Mark's Primary School, Iboropa Akoko (Primary 4) and Holy Trinity Primary School (Primary 5-6). He attended the prestigious Victory College, Ikare, where he passed his O-level School Certificate examination in flying colours and later proceeded to Christ School, Ado-Ekiti for the Higher School Certificate.

He attended the University of Ibadan Medical School between September 1966 and June 1971. During his undergraduate clinical training, he was appointed a part-time Demonstrator to medical and dental students in Physiology. He also got the ECFMG certificate (Philadelphia, USA) in 1971.

Professor Elegbe started his career in the University of Ibadan as a Lecturer II in the Department of Physiology in 1972. He was promoted to the rank of Lecturer I in 1975, Senior Lecturer in 1977, Reader in 1979 and Professor in 1982.

During his life time, Prof. Elegbe served the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and the University of Ibadan in various capacities before he retired from active service. He was Acting Head of Department (1980–1981), Head of Department

(February 1, 1983 – July 31, 1986; November 1, 1992–October 31, 1995; November 1, 1998 – October 31, 2001 and August 1, 2004–March 2006). He served as Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (1986–1990).

He represented the Senate of the University of Ibadan on many Boards and Committees of the Council such as the Board of Governors of The International School (1977-1979); Board of Governors of Staff School (1979-1980), Staff Disciplinary Committee, Housing Allocation Committee and the Board of Management, University Guest Houses.

Late Professor Elegbe was a recipient of several scholarships, travelling fellowships and awards such as Western State Regional Open Competitive Scholarship, ICRET Cancer Research Fellowship of Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, USA (1980 and 1986) and Forgy International Fellowship (1982). He was a Research Fellow at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medical College of Wisconsin, USA (1981-1982) and visiting Professor of Physiology, University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia.

Late Professor Elegbe was a member of many national and international professional bodies which included Nigerian Medical Association, Nigerian Society for Immunology, British Society for Immunology, West African Society for Pharmacology, Nutrition Society of Nigeria, West African Society for Gastroenterology. He was a founding member of the Physiological Society of Nigeria and served as the Vice President (1988–2000) and President (2000 - 2004).

Late Professor Elegbe was an outstanding scholar who made sterling contributions to scientific knowledge in the area of dietary factors in the etiology of ulcer. His investigations in this field provided a quantitative method of scoring experimental ulcers in laboratory animals. The ulcer scoring method developed by Elegbe and Bamgbose (1974) had been a reference for modern ulcer scoring techniques and has been quoted by scientists in this field. He had well over 100 publications in local and international journals. His other research interests included studies on the alpha subunit of hCG in pregnancy, Animal models in pain research, development of natural plants with pain and ulcer relieving properties.

In 1998, he co-founded the African Journal of Biomedical Research, a scientific journal conceived out of his vision to have a journal with uninterrupted, qualitative, peer-reviewed conduit of scientific communication. The journal lived to his vision as it has been published consistently since 1998, with the 57<sup>th</sup> issue (Volume 19, Number 3) scheduled to be published in September, 2016. He was inducted Fellow, Physiological Society of Nigeria in 2010.

Professor 'Rinde Elegbe was the last survivor of the 1970-1979 decade of the Senior Staff Club presidents, and an illustrious decade it was, boasting Professors Thompson, Adegboye, Dudley, Elegbe himself and others. He held the office of President of the Senior Staff Club from November 1978–November 1979.

He is survived by his wife, Prof. Eniola Elegbe (nee Macaulay) and four children. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

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