



3867

Special Release

02 September, 2016

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR JAMES KOLAWOLE EGUNJOBI

(22 August, 1935 - 11 July, 2016)

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret the transition of Professor James Kolawole Egunjobi, a distinguished Professor of Plant Ecology and former Head, Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, whose sad event occurred on Monday, 11 July in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Late Professor James Kolawole Egunjobi was born on 22 August, 1935 in Emure-Ekiti, Ondo State, (now Ekiti State) Nigeria to Chief Gabriel Egunjobi, the Obanla of Emure-Ekiti and his wife, Late Madam Janet Ibironke Egunjobi. He had his early education at St. Paul Anglican Primary School, Emure-Ekiti, which he completed in 1950. He attended Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti from 1951 to 1955 and served as the Senior Prefect in the final year. Between 1955 and 1958, he taught at Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti and Ondo Boys' High School, Ondo, before proceeding to the University College, Ibadan in 1958 on Western Nigerian Government Scholarship. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with Special Honours in Botany in 1962. He taught briefly at Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure, before returning to the University College, Ibadan on scholarship for postgraduate studies in Botany between 1962 and 1963.

Late Professor Egunjobi began his career as a Research Officer with the Research Division of Western Region's Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in 1964. In 1965, he won a United Nations Educational and Socio Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Fellowship to study Plant Ecology at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand. Upon return in December, 1967 he joined the Research Division of the Western Region's Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to become a Senior Research Officer. Thereafter, he joined the then Department of Agricultural Biology (now the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology), University of Ibadan as Lecturer Grade 1 in 1970. He, thereafter, won a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship Award in this capacity as Lecturer to undertake a six month postdoctoral training in Systems Ecology and Biomathematics at the Colorado State University, USA between October 1973 and March 1974 and rose to become a Professor of Plant Ecology in 1979.

At the Department of Agricultural Biology, late Professor Egunjobi served as the Head of Department between 1983 and 1987 and he towered excellently high in

several local and international consulting assignments. He had two long term spells in Nairobi, Kenya; first as Regional Adviser to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) between 1977 and 1980 and later as Head of Programme at the African Academy of Sciences between in 1993 and 1995. He was the Secretary to the National Committee on “Man and Biosphere Project” in Nigeria between 1991 and 1997 and the National Coordinator of the Savannah and Grazing Lands Projects in the same “Man and Biosphere Project” between 1991 and 1997. He was also member, Panel of Experts on Systems Analysis and Modelling Approaches in the UNESCO “Man and Biosphere Project” in Nigeria between 1973 and 1981.

Late Professor Egunjobi was a UNESCO Consultant Lecturer in Tropical Ecology, University of Nairobi, Kenya between September and October, 1974 and Guest Lecturer in Quantitative Methods and Community Ecology at the University of Nairobi, Kenya between March and April 1976. He served as External Examiner to the Department of Botany, University of Nairobi, Kenya between 1976 and 1978. He was Chairman, Planning Committee, National Workshop on Soil Erosion in 1986 and member, Governing Board of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria from 1988 till 1995.

He was highly regarded in his field of expertise and had contributed numerous publications in reputable outlets worldwide in the area of Plant Ecology and Biomathematics.

He will be missed by his family, friends, students and colleagues. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

Burial Arrangements:

a. Lying in State

- Date: Thursday, 8 September, 2016
- Venue: Trenchard Hall, UI
- Time 8:00am.

b. Wake Keep

- Date: Thursday, 8 September, 2016
- Venue: Egunjobi Family Compound, Ajilete Hill, Emure Ekiti, Ekiti State.
- Time 5:00pm

c. Funeral Service and Interment

- Date: Friday, 9 September, 2016
- Venue: St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Emure Ekiti, Ekiti State.
- Time 10:00am.

[END]