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SPECIAL RELEASE

20 March, 2018

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR VICTOR FOLARIN PAYNE

[06 May 1949 – 20 January 2018]

Professor A. I. Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Professor Victor Folarin Payne, a staff of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. The sad event occurred on Saturday, 20th January, 2018. He was aged 69 years.

Late Professor Payne, a Lagosian having his pedigree from the Williams, Payne and Manuwa families was born on 06 May, 1949 in Jos to the family of Mr. Jonathan Oladipo Payne and Mrs. Victoria Adeyinka Magbamade Payne (Nee Manuwa). His mother's siblings were: Late Sir (Dr.) Samuel Ayodeji Manuwa, Late Benjamin Adeoye Manuwa, Late Mr. Alfred Manuwa, Late Mrs. Arinola Egerton-Shyngle, Late Mrs. Janet Sowande, Late Mrs. Adebola Thomas, Late Mrs. Aderinsola Latunde, Late Mr. Adediran Manuwa and Late Mr. Ilori Manuwa.

His father Papa J. O. Payne who made a career in banking with the Barclay's Bank DCO, took his young family on transfer and sojourned in the Northern part of Nigeria. Returning to Lagos, Mama was gainfully employed as supervisory staff at the Old Kingsway Stores, Marina, Lagos until she retired in 1970. Her love for children was exceptionally evident when she actively participated in the pioneering work of running the SOS Children Village at Marina and Isolo, both in Lagos.

Late Folarin was the second and the last child of his parent. His elder sister was Late Irene Yetunde Funlayo Jibowu, an Education Administrator with the Lagos State Ministry of Education.

Late VFP, a descendant of the Otunba Payne family of Orange House, Tinubu, Lagos and also from the Manuwa dynasty of Itebu-Manuwa, a community that used to be the present day Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State and formally Old Ondo Province but now ceded by military fiat to Ogun State Water Side Local Government.

Late Professor Payne, was a double royal Prince of both Ijebu-Ode and Itebu-Manuwa. The maternal great grandfather was Oba Kuehin, the Elero of Itebu-Manuwa. Oba Kuehin was the first to receive and welcome the Christian Missionaries to Ondo Province. The missionaries arrived Itebu through the Atlantic. He, therefore, with great honour released his son, who later became Revd. B. I. Manuwa to follow the missionaries. Without mincing words, Late Folarin Payne was born great even though, he was very humble and unassuming.

His maternal grandfather was the Late Revd. Benjamin Ilowo Manuwa who served fervently both in Badagry and Lagos. It is not surprising that Victor Folarin Payne had a long history of

Christian heritage. Revd. B. I. Manuwa was the father of the celebrity Nigerian first Medical Director for Services, Sir (Dr.) Samuel Layinka Ayodeji Manuwa whose efforts as the Inspector General of Medical Services led to the establishment of the University College Hospital (UCH) where Folarin breathed his last.

His great grandfather was Omoba John Augustus Otunba Payne, a Nigerian administrator and diarist, who was a very prominent personality in Lagos and West Africa during the nineteenth century. He was a Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court, Lagos and served as Registrar in various colonial departments. He was one of the foremost and prominent Nigerian Lawyer. He was also one of the earliest products of CMS Grammar School, Lagos. A Layman and Warden at the Christ Church Cathedral, Marina, Lagos. Heir to the Awujale of Ijebu-Ode, Otunba Payne counselled the Awujale to allow Christian Missionaries and preachers to preach in Ago-Iwoye.

VFP started his primary education at Christ Church School, Faji, Lagos, where his first cousin, Mrs. Abimbola Bolodeoku (Nee Egerton-Shygle) first took him to school. He later completed his primary education at St. Jude's School, Ebute Meta in 1961. He gained admission to the prestigious St. Gregory's College, Obalende, Ikoyi, Lagos, where he and his bosom friend, Engr. Funsho Williams of blessed memory were coming top of the class. He had many friends while in school. The Marinhos, most especially Late Tokunbo and Dr. Tony Marinho, the great and exceptional Clinician were his very good friends. Today, most of his friends are in prominent positions in Nigeria and in the diaspora. VFP was a member of the school musical group where he played saxophone. VFP's father was also an old boy of St Gregory College, Lagos.

His post secondary education took him to the famous Adeyemi College of Education (Arbico) Ondo, where he studied Chemistry and Mathematics. Having taught for a while he got a study leave to attend University of Ibadan and to become a Mathematics guru. No wonder, his Uncle D called him "**Fossy Terror**". This could be viewed as a prophesy. VFP definitely became a "**terror**" to some "dark areas" in the kingdom of mathematics.

VFP's early working experience was briefly with the Federal Government and later, with Lagos State Ministry of Health where his interest in Chemistry arose, before his admission to Adeyemi College of Education. Having acquired the Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE), he was posted by the then Western State government to Ago-Iwoye Secondary School, as Master Teacher in Chemistry and Mathematics in August 1975. He later taught in Girls' Grammar School, Ijebu-Igbo. VFP was a good teacher and was loved by many of his students. While in Ago-Iwoye, in 1977, an incident happened in the school and the slogan "**No Payne, no School**", "**No Payne, no Maths**", "**No Maths, no School**" was coined.

Following the establishment of the Ogun State University now Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, in July 1982 and Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos in 1983, he taught Mathematics in the universities respectively as Assistant Lecturer between September 1983 and May 1987. Dr. Salawu, Prof. Otolorin and VFP worked tirelessly to develop the Ogun State University Department of Mathematics. His other professional colleagues, at that time, were Profs Oyesiku, Oba Fagade and Abiodun Sanni.

On 1 February, 1988 he got an appointment with the University of Ibadan as Assistant Lecturer and by dint of hard work, he later rose to the position of Professor of Mathematics. As Senior Lecturer (Sabbatical leave position) in Mathematics. VFP also had the teaching opportunities at other universities: Covenant University, Ota from 1 February – December, 2005; Adjunct Lecturer at Redeemer's University, April 2006 – 2013 and at the Federal University of Nigeria, Abeokuta (FUNNAB) from September 2007 – 2010.

During the course of his academic career in the University of Ibadan, he conducted researches in the area of Applied Mathematics in a path of study many dread to tread. His expertise in partial differential equation was great. In respect of his postgraduate work, he had a brilliant career as a visiting fellow in Mathematics at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy in 1996. VFP was also recognised internationally as a great mathematician. He was in University of Durban – Westville, Durban for the South-African PRD Post-Doctoral Fellowship from 1996 – 1997. He was a Guest Scholar of the Swedish Institute, from September – November 2003 and a Guest Researcher at Stockholm.

VFP was a member of many professional bodies: Nigerian Mathematical Society; Mathematical Association of Nigeria; Science Teacher's Association of Nigeria; European Association of Dynamics and European Society for Mathematics and Theoretical Biology.

Among other duties he carried out at the University of Ibadan, included the Registration and Course Adviser for Regular and External Degree Students; Departmental Representative at the Faculty Boards of Arts and Education, Coordinator of the GES course and the Coordinator and secretary of the Departmental Post Graduate Committee. VFP also served meritoriously as Sub-Dean (Physical) Faculty of Science.

A solid family man, VFP was married to Mrs. YetundeOlufunke Payne (nee Sodehinde), a Princess of Ago-Iwoye whom he met at Ago-Iwoye Secondary School, when she was the School Librarian. They got married on 02April 1981 and the family is blessed with two children Adeyinka and Victor. Prof. Payne was a lover of music. He was a mentor and father figure to many of his students. His love for children was very effervescent and tremendous. He was kind, generous, genuine and very reliable to his friends. A man of high integrity, honesty and sincerity. He was loved by his immediate and extended families. He lived a very good life. He would be greatly missed. He bid the world goodbye and left us for eternity on Saturday, 20 January, 2018.

May his gentle soul rest in peace!

BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH, 2018

Afternoon of Tributes, Lakeside, Faculty of Science, University of Ibadan at 3pm

THURSDAY, 22 MARCH, 2018

Christian Wake Keep, Pope John Paul Event Hall. Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church. Opposite UI Bookshop, University of Ibadan at 4pm.

FRIDAY, 23 MARCH, 2018

Commendation Service and Lying-in-State, Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan at 8am

Funeral Service at Anglican Church of the Messiah, 10, Atiba Road, New Bodija, Ibadan at 11am

Interment at St. Jame's the Great Cemetery, Ijokodo, Ibadan

Reception at Amazing Grace Hall, St. David's Anglican Church, Ijokodo, Ibadan

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