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Special Release

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### OBITUARY

#### **PROFESSOR ISRAEL OPEOLU OSOKOYA (1946-2025)**

The Vice-Chancellor Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, fspsp, announces the transition of Professor Israel Opeolu Osokoya, a retired staff of the defunct Department of Teacher Education (now of Department of Early Childhood and Educational Foundations), Faculty of Education. He was called home on Thursday, 27 March, 2025. He was aged 78 years.

Professor Israel Opeolu Osokoya was born on the 08 October, 1946 into a Royal and Christian Family at Eyinwa, Odogbolu in Ogun State of Nigeria. He rose to become a Reverend Canon of the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion, based at the Cathedral Church of Saint Pauls Odogbolu after his retirement from the university service. After elementary and secondary education, he attended Saint Pauls Teacher Training College Abeokuta where he passed with flying colours. He began his teaching career in January 1965 at Christ Church Anglican School Ogere-Remo; later Saint Peters Anglican School Jowoje, Isara and Saint Barnabas School Ilisan-Remo before moving to Holy Saviours College, Isolo-Lagos in 1973.

He gained admission into the University of Ibadan in October 1977 and won several university merit awards including Federal Government Merit Award for Academic Distinction in Teacher Education (1978), Ransome Kuti Award for the overall best student in Teacher Education (1980 convocation). After completing his National Youth Service Corps primary assignment at African Church Teacher Training College Ifako-Lagos in June 1981, he enrolled for his higher degree programmes, again at the Nigeria's premier university. With full determination, he passed his M.Ed degree in 1982 and bagged a Ph.D degree in History and Policy of Education in 1985.

Israel Olu Osokoya secured appointment into the university services as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education on 01 April 1984. He worked assiduously to rise through the ranks, becoming a Lecturer II in 1985, Lecturer 1 in 1988, Senior Lecturer in 1991, Reader in 2006 and full Professor in 2009. His research efforts as a university scholar and educator had been directed essentially to teaching and researching history of education in Nigeria. A prolific writer and scholar, Olu Osokoya had over 100 publications to his credit. He had authored/co-authored 15

books, ten chapters in books and 90 research-based articles in reputable national and international referenced journals. He travelled far and wide teaching and presenting papers in his area of specialisation. Professor Olu Osokoya, a hard-working and resourceful teacher enjoys classroom teaching. A reason the association of education students, University of Ibadan (NUESA) honoured him with the Lecturer of the Year award in 2000. He successfully supervised 66 M.Ed and 12 Ph.D candidates.

Professor Olu Osokoya served as the Acting Head of the Department of Teacher Education University of Ibadan between 2000 and 2002. He was a member of the University of Ibadan Senate (2000-2002) and of Tai Solarin University of Education (2012-2014). He served as a visiting lecturer at the Department of Comparative Studies, Institute of Education, University of London during his first sabbatical leave from September 1990 to August 1991. He later served as Visiting Professor of History of Education at the Department of Education Policy, Pennsylvania State University, USA in 1997/98 session.

As an International scholar of history of education Professor Osokoya founded and was elected the Pioneering President of History of Education Society of Nigeria, later renamed as Historians of Education Development Society of Nigeria (HOEDSON), an affiliate of the International Standing Conference for History of Education in 2004. He organised national conferences for the association and led Nigerian Historians of education to various international conferences. As a member of the International Society for Teacher Education (ISfTE), International Standing Conference for History of Education (ISCHE) as well as the International Congress of Historical Sciences (ICHS), Professor Olu Osokoya was granted several scholarships and sponsorships awards to attend congresses of the world historians of education abroad where he presented various scholarly paper on Contemporary Issues in History and Policy of Education in Nigeria.

A professional teacher, scholar, researcher and pastor, the Reverend Canon Professor Olu Osokoya had during the past 60 years built enormous human and material resources nationally and internationally. The name Professor Israel Olu Osokoya is a common name in the Faculty of Education of the various universities in Nigeria, particularly the University of Ibadan where he lectured for about 30 years. His subject speciality is a required foundation course for education undergraduate and post-graduate students in Nigerian universities. He focused essentially on History and Policy of Education and Teaching and Learning of History. Apart from writing academic textbooks, he also wrote on *Socio-political Matters: Crusader for National Unity and Social Justice (A Biography of Otunba TOS Benson) (1993) and Biography of Alhaji Lateef Jakande (1995).*

Reverend Canon Professor Israel Opeolu Osokoya was happily married to Professor Modupe M. Osokoya of the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan; the marriage is blessed with progressive and promising children and grandchildren.

### **Burial Arrangements:**

The funeral arrangements has been announced by his family. He is to be buried on Friday, 23 May, 2025 in Ijebu-Eyinwa (near Odogbolu), Ogun State.

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