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OBITUARY

EMERITUS PROFESSOR GABRIEL KAYODE FALADE
(1942 – 2026)

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. O. Adebowale, mni, FAS, fspsp, announces the transition of Emeritus Professor Gabriel Kayode Falade, a distinguished Emeritus Professor of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, University of Ibadan. He bade this world farewell on 06 August 2026. He was aged 83 years.

Late Emeritus Professor Gabriel Kayode Falade was born on 08 August 1942 in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. He attended Christ School, Ado-Ekiti for his secondary education, and Federal School of Arts and Science, Lagos, for higher school certificate before proceeding to Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in 1964, where he graduated with a B.Sc. Hons. (with Class Merit) in Chemical Engineering, in 1967. He proceeded to Toronto University in Canada where he obtained an M.A. Sc. in Chemical Engineering in 1969. He bagged another Masters' degree (M.S.) in Petroleum Engineering from Stanford University, California, U.S.A, in 1970, and earned a Ph.D. degree (with Distinction) in Petroleum Engineering from the same Stanford University, in 1973. His PhD research led to the development of Pulse Testing technology.

Late Emeritus Professor G. K. Falade joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Senior Lecturer on 27 July 1975 and was promoted to become the first Professor of Petroleum Engineering in Africa in 1981. He retired from the services of the University of Ibadan on 08 August 2007 and was appointed Emeritus Professor in 2021.

Late Emeritus Professor G. K. Falade served as the acting Head of Department of Petroleum Engineering between 1977-1979, 1980-1982; Head of Department 1983-1985, 2001-2004; Faculty Adviser of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, University of Ibadan students' chapter between 1978-1985, foundation Professorial Chair, Shell Petroleum Development Company endowed professorial Chair in Petroleum engineering, 1992-2004 and pioneer Director, University of Ibadan-Schlumberger Learning Center in 2001. Under his leadership, the Petroleum Engineering degree program at the University of Ibadan was the first in Nigeria to be approved and accredited by the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) in 1979. The full accreditation status was renewed in 1989, 2000 and 2006. Through his dedication and commitment to excellence, the University of Ibadan was selected in the forty (40) global Schlumberger "Ambassador University" programme in 2002; the department was given the World Oil Award for excellence in 2005, and the University of Ibadan was granted the UNESCO Professorial Chair in Georesources Management, in recognition of

Ibadan's foremost role in Georesources education in Africa. His efforts also led to Memoranda of Understanding between the University of Ibadan and the University of Stanvanger, Norway; Penn State University, USA; Schlumberger Oilfield services; among others.

At the Faculty and University levels, Late Emeritus Professor G. K. Falade was the foundation Sub-Dean Postgraduate of the Faculty of Technology, 1977-1978, and the Dean between 1986 -1988. He attracted to the University the Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company of Nigeria's grant of $2500 per annum between 1975-2001; Prince Ado Ibrahim endowment of one million naira in 1979; Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) -assisted laboratory equipment (1976-1979); donation of two Caravans by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company in 1979; the University of Ibadan-Shell Chair building in 2004; among many others.

At the national and international levels, late Emeritus Professor G. K. Falade delivered the 1977 National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) October lecture series, titled, "The Black Gold". He served as a member of the committee on the National Energy Policy, member of the Committee on Appropriate Technology Transfer in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry (sponsored by the Norwegian and Nigerian Governments), consultant to some Nigerian state governments on Small Scale Industry Policy Design and Implementation, served as a member of accreditation teams of the National Universities Commission and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, and was a visiting Professor to Sultan Qaboos' University Oman, and Al-Ain University, Abu-Dhabi. In both universities, he was involved in building the Engineering curricular and graduating the first sets of Petroleum Engineering graduates.

Late Emeritus Professor G.K. Falade was a recipient of many scholarships, fellowships, prizes, and awards including the Federal Government Scholarship, Class Merit Certificate in Chemical Engineering, State of Ontario (Canada) Studentship Award in Chemical Engineering, Stanford University Occidental Oil Fellowship Award, Certificate of Distinction in Ph.D. final examination, Texaco Oil Company (South Louisiana) Industrial Award, and Distinguished Lecturer Award by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, Richardson, U.S.A. He was a Senior Fulbright Fellow (SUPRI, California U.S.A), and was honoured in August 2023, by the Nigerian Institute of Petroleum Engineers with a Public Lecture and Lifetime Achievement Award having trained and mentored at least 10 Professors.

Late Emeritus Professor G. K. Falade was a member of many professional institutions and learned societies including: the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME, Talent Council of the Society of Petroleum Engineers International, Institution for Chemical Engineers (U.K), Associate, American Institute for Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and the International Association of Geodesy (Commission for Geodesy of Africa). He was a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Petroleum Engineers, and a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. He was a registered engineer with the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN). He had to his credit numerous publications in high Impact Journals, refereed conference proceedings, Monographs, Chapters in Books, Technical Reports, and Commissioned Reports.

Late Emeritus Professor G.K. Falade is survived by his wife, Professor Catherine Olufunke Falade, four children and many grandchildren.

May his soul rest in perfect peace!

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