

PROFESSOR OWODUNNI TERIBA



At the center of the illustrious career of Professor Teriba, prior to his coming to the ECA, was a passion for teaching economic principles, monetary, fiscal and development economics that was pursued continuously in progressing academic positions at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He was also at various times a Visiting scholar and an External Examiner at some other Universities in Nigeria, the USA, and several others in Western, Eastern and the Southern parts Africa. His teaching duties and assignments included a broad spectrum of active involvement in the design and development of economic curricula and courses in development economics; fiscal and monetary policies; economic planning; and business and public administration. He was frequently involved in conducting seminars for business leaders and top-level managers in the private sector, senior public servants and government leaders. He has supervised many generations of graduate students in studies leading to the award of higher degrees, and participated actively on examination boards and in the design of frameworks for the evaluation of university undergraduates, college and post-graduate students both as an internal and external examiner. Many of these students are now themselves educators and part of the elite leadership corps of academics and professional economists in many African countries.

His wealth of teaching, research experience and theoretical insights to public policy was immense and intense; developed mostly in the course of and as part of his substantial and varied consulting capability and visibility on the continent. From his base at the University of Ibadan, he undertook series of project formulation, implementation and monitoring exercises and assignments, not only for government agencies but also for multilateral and bilateral agencies and donor organizations, and the UN agencies in support of African development. Just to give a few examples, he worked several times for the Federal and State governments of Nigeria as a consultant on development planning and policy initiatives for fiscal federalism while his scholarly work and policy recommendations on monetary policy were of immense value to the Nigerian monetary system and capital markets. He collaborated with his colleagues of the Planning Studies Programme at the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan, in carrying out a Ford Foundation-sponsored study on the dynamics and nexus of Africa's population and development.

The high regard and esteem in which he was and is still held among his professional peers and colleagues account for his several nominations, appointments and election to serve in many professional bodies, such as the West African Economic Association, the Nigerian Economic

Society (of which he was for several years the Treasurer, the Assistant Editor and later the Editor-in-Chief of the Society's prestigious journal, the Nigerian Journal of Economics and Social Studies , from 1971 to 1976. In recognition of his contribution to the development of the economics education and profession, and an invaluable service to the Society and its international networking focus, Professor Teriba has been elected a Life Fellow, which is highest and rarest honor the Society ever bestows on any living member. He has an enviable record of public service and participation in the management of public sector organizations and institutions (such as the Nigerian Decimal Currency board, the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, the Institute of Social and Economic Research) and a pioneering role in the establishment of profit centers and the institutionalization of corporate consultancy services within academia.

Professor Teriba wrote a very useful textbook of Economics that was used in the 70s and 80s in Nigeria for the teaching of economics in Secondary Schools. This made 'O Teriba' a household name in Nigeria.

Professor Teriba's reputation and fame preceded and indeed accompanied him to the UN-ECA, as a distinguished economist, academic scholar and luminary, teacher, researcher, planner, author and policy adviser. His is an excellent academic background and prominent professional background and considerable pioneering experience in teaching, research, authorship of books, monographs and journal articles, production of conference papers on strategic issues of development, policy planning and advocacy, and African development work in general, all of which had been nourished and deepened as part of a distinguished academic carrier since the mid-1960s.

Professor Teriba first came to the UN-ECA in 1980/81 whilst on sabbatical from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and later in 1985 as the Senior Regional Adviser to the member States of the Commission on economic surveys, research and planning. But he soon rose swiftly to become the Commission's Chief economist and the Director of its Socio-Economic Research and Planning Department in 1989, with broader managerial functions and responsibilities. Not only was his leadership role and hands-on-management and direction of economic surveys, research and perspective studies at the Commission unique and adroit, they were indeed legendary and exemplary.

He contributed immensely to the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and the Final Act of Lagos (FAL) that were adopted by the African Heads of State and Governments in 1980; Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) that formed the basis of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) that was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986; the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, 1991 (UN-NADAF), and the crafting of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) that was adopted at various levels in 1989 beginning with the UN-ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning, the African Heads of State and Government and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In all, Professor O. Teriba is a humble person with an in-depth and exceptional knowledge of Development Economics, and approximately 40 years of progressive responsible experience and outstanding contributions at both national and international levels related to economic policy

research and analysis; someone with extensive experience and proven ability to conduct policy discussions with senior government officials and business leaders; and, someone who can be relied upon to provide effective leadership in many areas of community development in a multi-cultural setting.

An avid investor, Professor Teriba is an Elder at the International Pentecostal Church (IPC), in Addis Ababa. He has, for the past few years, been the pioneering President of the Nigeria in Diaspora in Ethiopia laying good a foundation that has helped organize the Nigerian Community in Ethiopia, raising funds for presidential gifts, arranging presidential airport receptions and making advisory policy statements during State Visits, arranging send-forth events for departing Ambassadors, leading social visits to Nigerians who were blessed with new babies, among others.

Professor Owodunni Teriba is married and blessed with five children, namely: Olumuyiwa, Olusolape, Olufadekemi, Olumayowa and Olufisayomi. His wife, Mrs. Yetunde Teriba, is a renowned gender activist and Head of Gender Coordination and Outreach Division in the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.