

Tributes as renowned Mass Communication professor, Lai Oso, dies in fatal accident

By Soji Ajibola

A professor of Mass Communication at the School of Communication, Lagos State University, Lai Oso, is dead.

According to reports, Oso died on Saturday evening in an accident while returning from a conference in Abraka, Delta State.

Aged 67, his death was confirmed by the Dean, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, LASU, Professor Sunday Olayinka Alawode, in a broadcast message on Sunday morning.

Alawode wrote, "Good morning family. I am constrained to inform us of the

involvement of Professor Muraino Olayiwola OSO, (we all fondly called Baba Lai Oso) in a fatal auto accident which claimed his life on Saturday.

"It's a rude shock to all of us even as we commiserate with Mummy Oso, the children and his entire family, the Communication family worldwide, LASU community and all others.

"Baba, your sudden exit is painful, but we rest in the comfort that you have gone to be with the Lord. Rest in Peace. Adieu Baba of the Communication family."

Idris Mohammed, one of his students broke the news in a Facebook post on Sunday.

"It's with great sadness and

heavy heart that I bring to you the passing away of our very own Professor Lai Oso of the Mass Communication Department, Lagos State University in the evening today as a result of a fatal accident on his way back to Lagos from Abraka, Delta State.

"Late Lai Oso was one of Professor Pate's allies and a great communication scholar in Nigeria. He was a humble and generous man of exemplary good character. Goodnight Prof!!" Mohammed wrote.

Two of the deceased students, Idris Mohammed and Wasiu Tejuoso, were quoted by *Platforms Africa* as saying the late don died in a motor accident on the Ijebu axis of

the Ore-Sagamu expressway on Saturday evening.

He worked as a reporter on both radio and the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* and taught courses in Journalism, Media and Governance, Political Communication, Development Communication and Theory.

The Association of Communication Scholars and Professional expressed grief over the death of its foundation President, Professor Lai Oso.

The Association, in a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Lanre Arogundade, described his death as a huge loss to the Nigerian and global mass communication and journalism community.

Oso, according to the state-

ment, became the President of ACSPN in 2014, after the incorporation of the association late in 2013, and served meritoriously till 2020 when he passed the baton of leadership to the current President, Professor Umaru Pate, Vice Chancellor of Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State.

The management of Moshood Abiola Polytechnic Abeokuta, through the Rector, Dr Adeoye Odedeji, registered their condolences, describing the incident as a colossal loss to the communication profession and humanity at large.

Odedeji emphasised that his distinct impacts on the Theory of Communication and the History of Mass Media, amongst others will remain indelible in the mind of his students and the Communication professionals

He prayed on behalf of the governing council, staff and students of the Polytechnic for the repose of Professor Lai's soul, and comfort for the family.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos Council, says it received with a heavy heart, news of the death of the don.

The council, in a statement issued on Sunday in Lagos, jointly signed by its chairman, Mr Adeleye Ajayi and secretary, Mr Tunde Olalere,

described the death of Oso as shocking and devastating.

"The news of the death of Professor Oso in a motor accident while returning from Abraka, Delta State, on Saturday, was very devastating.

"His death remains a big blow not only in communication circle, but in all academic spheres. May the soul of our dear lecturer, friend and mentor, Professor Oso, rest in peace," the statement read.

Professor Oso was a Lecturer at the Ogun State Polytechnic, Abeokuta where he rose to become Head of Mass Communication Department and the Deputy Rector.

He taught for many years at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State and also the Lagos State University.

He was at a time, Dean, School of Communication Studies, Lagos State University.

Oso was a Professor at the Mass Communication School of Communication, LASU. He was the Dean of the school between 2011 and 2015.

The late professor was educated at the University of Lagos (B.Sc. Mass Communication), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (M.Sc. International Relations) and obtained a Ph.D. degree in Mass Communication as a Federal Government scholar at the University of Leicester, England in 1977.



From L - R: National Programme Coordinator, UNIDO, Oluyomi Banjo; Chairman, GreenHubAfrica Foundation Professor Oba...
Fashion Designer and Environmentalist...