

Gbolahan Sowemimo, P.O. Fayemi, Olugbenro Coker, and Akintoye Anthonio,

ALFRED GBOLAHAN SOWEMIMO

Alfred Gbolahan Sowemimo was born on 4th January 1929 in Ibadan to Pa. Ijaola Ladapo Sowemimo and Mrs. Christiana Taiwo Sowemimo. His father was one of the children of Chief Durojaiye Sowemimo. He was educated at Abeokuta Grammar School and the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

He entered the Nigerian Civil Service on 1st August 1951. He was later transferred to the defunct Western Nigeria Civil Service on 1st October 1954. He served as Private Secretary to the Western Regional Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (1963 – 1964).

Alfred Gbolahan Sowemimo was for many years in the Organization and Methods Unit of the Ministry of Establishments and Training. He was part of the Pioneer Staff at Ogun State Public Service on the creation of the state in March 1976. He was also part of the team of experts from United Nations which introduced The Project Performance Budgeting System to Ogun State Public Service. He retired from the Civil Service on 1st October 1986 as Secretary for Finance and Administration.

He was for many years the Secretary of the Ibadan Branch of the Jibolu-Taiwo Family Union. He also at a time served as the Financial Secretary of the family and Chairman of Oke-Ala Community Development Council, Abeokuta.

CHIEF DR (MRS) P.O. FAYEMI

Chief Dr (Mrs) P.O. Fayemi was born to late Chief Solomon Oyeneye Coker of Aderupoko family of the Jibolu-Taiwo Family Union and Mrs. Olive Kanyinola Coker (Nee Solanke) of Liyaungun Ruling House of Sagamu on Tuesday, 15th October, 1929 in Abeokuta. Both parents were leaders at the Trinity Methodist Church, Itesi, Abeokuta.

She started her infant schooling in Ago-Okoko Methodist School, Abeokuta and later proceeded to Methodist Girls School, Imo, Abeokuta. She left Abeokuta for Sagamu Girls' School in 1943. She gained admission to United Missionary College, Ibadan in 1945 and graduated as a Grade II Teacher in 1947. She started teaching in her Alma Mater, Methodist Girls' School, Imo, Abeokuta, in January 1948 and acted as the Headmistress of the school in 1954 when Mrs. M.F. Akinyemi was away on study leave. She became the Headmistress of Methodist Girls' Secondary Modern School, Oke-Yeke, Abeokuta, in January 1955.

Mrs. Fayemi was awarded scholarship by the Western Nigerian Government in 1955. She proceeded to England in August 1955 and studied Domestic Science (now known as Home Economics) and Music at St. Osyth's Training College, Clacton-on-sea, Essex. On completion of her 3 year course at Essex, the Western Nigerian Government sent her to Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, Scotland in autumn 1958 to study Administration. She returned to Nigeria in January 1959 and was posted to Women's Training Center, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta. At Idi-Aba, besides teaching Domestic Science subjects, she was the music teacher. She organised the College's popular yearly Nine Lessons Carol Services as the Choir mistress and Pianist assisted by Mr. Remilekin Syllon of blessed memory.

In 1964, she also won scholarship of the Western Government to study a Degree Course in Home Economics in Illinois State University, Norman, Illinois. Given credits for her courses in England, she completed the BSc. Degree in 1965 and got the MSc. with research in June 1966. She returned to Nigeria and was posted back to the Women's Training Center, Idi-Aba. Late in 1966, she was loaned by the Western Region Government, Ministry of Education to Abeokuta Girl's Grammar School as Acting Principal. She returned to Women's Training Center in 1967 where she was until she was transferred to Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro in 1969.

In 1974, she left Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro for University of Ife, Adeyemi College of Education as Lecturer 1. At Adeyemi College of Education, she was Head of Home Economics Department, Head of Applied Arts and Science, Deputy Provost and acting Provost. She later became the Provost of the College. She retired as the Provost of the College in December, 1990. She obtained her Ph.d Teacher Education, Ibadan in July 1983. She had authored and co-authored several books. She was a consultant and External Examiner to several bodies.

On retirement from Ono, she took up Contract Appointment in University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) from 1991 to 1999.

Sola, as popularly called, was able to achieve so much through the grace of God, the selfless love and encouragement of her mother and her great, loving husband, Late Mr. Gabriel Ajibola Fayemi who died on July 22, 1971. They got married on July 17, 1952, when they were both Grade II teachers and were blessed with loving, caring and happy contented children, many charming grandchildren, helpful sisters, brothers, nephews and cousins.

Chief (Dr. Mrs.) Phebean Olusola Fayemi is an educationist, a musician, a guider, first aider, author, leader, a faithful, diligent and courageous wife, loving mother and a darling grandma and sister.

DR. WAAJI OLUGBEMIRO COKER

Dr. Waaji Olugbemi Coker born on 16th March, 1936 by the late Olori Ebi, Pa. Sodolu Oyewole Coker (Pa Porta) and Madam Dorcas Bukola Coker daughter of the Late Laloko and Oluwo of Eruwo, Abeokuta.

He attended the Banham Memorial Methodist School, Port Harcourt from 1939 to 1943. Late Papa Porta sent him to Lagos to further his education and he stayed with his uncle, Reuben Soyebi Coker at his residence in Strachan Street, now Hebert Macaulay Street, Lagos. He attended the Regan Memorial Baptist School, Yaba (1944 – 1945) and Baptist Academy, Broad Street, Lagos (1946 – 1950).

He worked at the Post and Telegraph (now NITEL) in the Divisional Engineer's Office, Catholic Mission Street and within 2 years, he was made head of a section with members of staff older than him in age and length of service under him.

His section was responsible for compiling and issuing payment for the first automatic exchange in Kakawa Street, Lagos.

He was the first to be accorded a send-off where the Divisional Engineer said, "We are sorry to lose this young, cheerful, boisterous man".

He travelled to the United Kingdom in December, 1956 and got employment as a clerk in the student section of the Nigerian High Commission. He started full time studies in September, 1957 in the then Northern Polytechnic, Holloway Road, N4 London, now University of North London, where he did his advanced level G.C.E.

He later went to one of the best Medical Schools in England, the University of Birmingham Medical School. In his final year, he passed the Royal College of Physician and the Royal College of Surgeon examinations to become a Doctor, while he was still a student. He later passed his University Examination in a record time.

As a Doctor, he did his House Surgeon Job at the Selly Cak Hospital, Birmingham and his house Physician and Senior House Surgeon Job in Walsall General Hospital England.

Dr. W.O. Coker returned to Nigeria in 1967 and joined the then Federal Civil Service as a Medical Officer few months after his return. He was sent to Military Hospital Yaba, where he was later given a Field Commission and rose to the rank of a Major.

He was with the Army before, during and after the civil war. He later returned to the Civil Service to the now Lagos State Government where he worked and rose to a Principal Medical Officer. He was Head of the Ebute-Metta, John Street, Onikan, Surulere Health Centers and the first Principal Medical Officer of Isolo, Health Center. He left the State Government in 1978 to set up his private practice JIBOLU CLINIC.

He is happily married to Olufunmilola Babafunke Coker (Nee Taiwo) and they have 5 children, Olufunke, Sodolu, Efunbola, Olanrewaju and Sodeinde.

QUIRONO BANDELE OLATUNJI AKINTOYE ANTHONIO

Professor Quirono Antonio, the author of several books and articles on agricultural marketing, economic development and agricultural policy was Director of the Joint ECA/FAO (Economic Commission for Africa/Food & Agriculture Organisation) Agriculture Division of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Born in Nigeria on 16 May 1929, Professor Quirono Antonio studied at the University of Ibadan (1953 – 1958) as a Government Scholar, gaining a B.Sc. degree. With the aid of a Rockefeller Fellowship, he then studied at the University of Oxford, England (1958 – 1960), gaining a Diploma in Agricultural Economics, and then with another Rockefeller Fellowship, he studied at the University of California, Berkeley (1963 – 1966), gaining an M.Sc. In 1968, he was awarded a Ph.D. from the University of London. Author of “Economics of Peasant Storage” (1960); “Farming as Business” (1964); “West African Agriculture” (1975), as well as many articles on these subjects, he served as editor of the “Nigeria Journal of Agriculture” from 1972 to 1976. Other appointments held by Professor Quirono Antonio include the position of assistant, then economist, with the Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture; Chief Examiner for Agriculture for the West African School Certificate Examination; and membership of the Board of Directors of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation. He was appointed to the position of Director of the Joint ECA/FAO in 1976. He also became a member of the faculty of the University of Ibadan, in 1961, becoming Professor of Agricultural Economics in 1975; and Chairman of Oyo & Ogun States Tobacco Advisory Commission. An academic by inclination, Professor Quirono Antonio is a Life Member of the Agricultural Society of Nigeria, and a member of the Economic Society of Nigeria, Agricultural Economic Society of the U.K., and the International Association of Agricultural Economists. His permanent home is in Nigeria, where his hobbies are photography, music and theatricals. He also enjoys playing tennis and cricket.