

## OBITUARY AND PRESS RELEASE



**MR. ELVIS ABIODUN LAWALE**  
**B.A, M.SC. (IFE)**  
**PIONEER REGISTRAR, CHRISLAND UNIVERSITY.**

With a very heavy heart but with gratitude to the Almighty God, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Mrs.) Chinedum Peace Babalola (FAS) on behalf of the Chancellor, the Chairman and members, Board of Trustees (BOT), the Chairman and members Governing Council, the staff and students of Chrisland University announces the transition of Mr. Elvis Abiodun Lawale, the Registrar. The sad event occurred on Thursday, 26 April, 2018. He was aged 62 years.

Elvis Abiodun Lawale was born on January 1, 1956, in the ancient town of Ilora, Afijio Local Government of Oyo State, Nigeria. He attended Ilora Baptist Grammar School from 1969-1973, where he obtained his West African School Certificate; and the famous Christ School Ado-Ekiti, between 1973 and 1975, where he earned his Higher School Certificate.

At Ilora Baptist Grammar School, Elvis' sterling leadership qualities came to the fore, He became the Dining Hall Prefect during his final year in school; was President of the Baptist Training Union; then, became the Director of the School Choir, between 1972 and 1973. At Christ School, Ado-Ekiti, Elvis was a goldfish too, as he was the Chairman of the School Buttery Management Committee, between 1974 -1975.

After then, he proceeded to the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), between 1975 – 1979, for a Bachelor's degree in History/Political Science and bagged a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in International Relations in 1983, from the same University. During his undergraduate days, Elvis was actively involved in Student Unionism, serving as Financial Secretary of the University of Ife Student Union and Honourable Member, Student Representative Council (SRC) and University of Ife Student Disciplinary Committee, from 1977 to 1978. A responsible gentleman to the core, he was appointed Chairman, Murtala Mohammed Postgraduate Hall Executive Council Foundation; and Chairman, Graduate Students Association of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, from 1981-1982 and 1982-1983 respectively.

During his National Youth Service, Elvis went up North and served at the Niger State Rural Electricity Board, Minna. It was there he began to cut his teeth in the administrative profession.

On his return home, Elvis started to work for his Alma Mater, the University of Ife as Administrative Officer II from March 1983. He left in October 1989 as Administrative Officer I to pick up a new appointment at the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), now the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), as Senior Assistant Registrar in November 1989. At the University of Agriculture, Elvis Lawale made substantial administrative impact. Aside from representing the Registrar while the Registrar was on leave, he was Secretary to many statutory/ad-hoc committees and the Chairman of others. He also became the Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA), UNAAB Branch, from 1998 to 2002.

By the time he left UNAAB, he had risen to the position of Deputy Registrar in charge of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, during the tenure of Professor Julius Okojie, who later became the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Elvis Lawale assumed duty as the Pioneer Registrar and Secretary to the Council of Bowen University, Nigeria in June 2002. At Bowen, he served as a member of several Committees and was the Chairman of many others, including the Music/Special Concert and Christmas Carol Committee, serving for almost a decade. After serving as Bowen University's Registrar for two terms of five years each, Elvis returned to the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, his Alma mater again in July 2013 for his Sabbatical. He worked as Visiting Head, Staff Training and Development/Industrial Relations Unit,

until September 2014, when he became the Managing Director, Bowen University Ventures, until March 2015.

Elvis Lawale also served at national levels. In 2002, he became a member of the Association of Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of Private Universities in Nigeria and also, a member of the Admission Policy Board, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), where he served for ten years till 2012. In 2006, he had the additional responsibility of being the Secretary of the Association of Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of Private Universities in Nigeria, in recognition of his uncommon dedication to duty.

Between 2011 and 2012, he also served the West African Examination Council in various capacities. Between July 2012 and February 2013, Elvis Lawale was a member and Secretary of Lead City University, Ibadan Visitation Panel.

Additionally, Elvis belonged to the Nigerian Institute of Personnel Management.

It is no surprise that during the course of his career, Elvis Lawale received many awards among which are: Chancellor's commendation and appreciation for positive contributions to the success of the Vice-Chancellors' (Professors Nurudeen O. Adedipe and Julius A. Okojie) tenures (1989-1995 and 1996-2001 respectively); SSANU Merit Award by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), UNAAB Branch, Elvis Lawale served as President, UNAAB Staff Club between 1993 and 1995; and member of many Committees; Commendation by the Nigerian Baptist Convention as Pioneer Registrar, Bowen University (2002-2012); Foundation Staff award at the 10th Anniversary of Bowen University as Pioneer Registrar (November, 2012) and the Vice-Chancellor's award for outstanding Performance as Pioneer Registrar, Bowen University. He was indispensable in the University Community.

As a devout Baptist Christian, Mr. Lawale was a brilliant organist, astute scholar, a meticulous and dedicated worker. In his church, the Ibara Baptist church Abeokuta, he was the Music Director and member of the Executive Committee from 2013 to 2015.

Elvis was a member of Rotary Club of Abeokuta Metropolis and was the Returning Officer, National Assembly and Presidential Elections, Ifo and Shagamu Local Governments, Ogun State in 1999. He also served as Vice-President, Nigeria Junior Chambers, Ile-Ife from 1985 -1986 and was Executive President, Nigeria Junior Chamber, Abeokuta, from 1992 to 1993.

Elvis Lawale was widely traveled, having visited the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and South Africa, to mention a few, for educational and professional advancement programmes.

Elvis Lawale assumed the position of Pioneer Registrar and Secretary to Council, Chrisland University, Abeokuta on April 1, 2015, nurturing the budding University to the enviable administrative heights it has attained today. He worked assiduously, serving in various capacities in the University, till Thursday, April 26, 2018, when sadly, the sun set after a brief illness.

Mr. Lawale was our Foundation Registrar, a committed administrator who kept working and walking amongst us till he could no longer continue. He was a gentleman par excellence, a good and kind-hearted He was a mentor, motivator, confidant, colleague, father and lots more to parents, staff, friends, students, and associates of Chrisland University. Above all, he was our Chapel Organist who hardly missed any service until the brief period he was ill. It is indeed a huge loss to the immediate family and Chrisland University family. Survived by his wife, Adesola and their lovely children, Elvis would be sorely missed by all.

May his gentle soul rest in peace!

**ADIEU, Elvis Abiodun Lawale!!!**

#### **BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2018** – Service of songs, tributes and commendation, Chrisland University Auditorium at 3pm

**THURSDAY, 10 MAY, 2018** – Wake keep, Ibara Baptist Church, Abeokuta at 5pm

**FRIDAY, 11 MAY 2018** – Interment Service, Ibara Baptist Church, Abeokuta at 11 am