

# THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO FOUNDATION

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*Office of the Executive Director*



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## **PROFESSOR SAM ALUKO (1929-2012): A TRIBUTE**

We received with shock and profound sadness, the news of the passing away of a great Nigerian, a foremost scholar and committed patriot, Professor Sam Aluko, in the early hours of Tuesday, February 7, 2012. He was a most dependable Trustee of the Obafemi Awolowo Foundation.

Professor Aluko earned his place on the pioneer Board of Trustees of the Foundation by right. He was an exemplary intellectual who, by rights, could have chosen a life cocooned in the 'ivory tower'. Yet, in the best traditions of patriotic activism, he chose to apply his prodigious intellect and expertise as an economist to pursuing the best for those that are less endowed.

In doing so, Professor Aluko elected to work with a leader he admired and grew to love and trust, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Together with many other patriots, they formed a formidable team whose vision and actions not only radically transformed individual lives and society in South Western Nigeria for the better, but also over time has proved to be an unassailable strategy for national transformation. He remained faithful to this vision till the end.

His loyalty to their chosen course and to the person of Chief Awolowo remained unshaken in spite of the severe storms of 1962-66 and in spite of spirited efforts by the then opposition to persuade him to 'jump ship'. Indeed, he appeared to become even more resolute, and more active, at the time and the support of people like him must have gone a long way to buoy up their leader's spirits during that dark period.

Professor Aluko's contributions to the success of the Obafemi Awolowo Foundation since its inception in 1992 are immeasurable. We recall with immense gratitude, his contribution of a seminal essay, titled, 'Awo as a Humanist', to the Foundation's

centenary publication, 'AWO: On the Trail of a Titan'. The essay was essentially his unique recollection of Awo as a leader and friend.

Professor Aluko extended his love for Awo to every member of Awo's family. I will always be grateful for his absolute, unabashed support for, and belief in me and the thought of this will forever be a source of inspiration.

We condole his dear wife, Mrs. Joyce Aluko, their children and entire family on their irreparable loss. We urge them, nevertheless, to take solace in the fact that Professor Aluko lived an enviably fulfilled life and, therefore, fully deserves not to be mourned but celebrated.

Despite the seductiveness of contemporary times, he 'finished his course' and he 'kept the faith'.

May his indomitable soul rest in perfect peace.

**Dr Olatokunbo Awolowo Dosumu**  
**Executive Director**