

# In Memoriam: Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye



Dr. Adebowale Ibidapo Adefuye was Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United States of America; he died August 27, 2015, after a brief illness.

He hailed from Ijebu-Igbo in 1947, and studied at the University of Ibadan where he earned his first degree in 1969 as well as a Ph.D. in history in 1973. He also received a Fulbright Fellowship that enabled him to do research work at Columbia University, the University of North Florida, and the University of Florida in Gainesville. He wrote several history texts, taught at the University of Lagos, earning a

professorship and heading the History Department from 1985 to 1987.

Adefuye served as ambassador to Jamaica (where he was concurrently accredited to Haiti and Belize) from 1987 to 1991. In 1991, he was appointed Nigeria's Deputy High Commissioner in the U.K., leaving to work for fourteen years as a Deputy Director at the Commonwealth. On leaving the Commonwealth, the former professor accepted a position as an advisor at the Economic Community of West African States. In 2010 he was appointed by former President Goodluck Jonathan as Nigeria's ambassador in the U.S. He was an outspoken person and fierce defender of Nigeria as he tackled critics of Nigeria in the U.S. (he vociferously lobbied against Nigeria's classification as "a country of interest" in America's terrorism watch list).

Nigeria has approximately 174 million inhabitants, and thus, the most populous country in Africa, and the seventh most populous country in the world (Nigerians are the single largest contemporary African immigrant group in the United States).