



RETHINKING FULFILMENT

A Tribute to

PROF FOLAGBADE OLUSOGA PETER ORIOLA

Deputy Editor in Chief and Chairman, Technical Committee

Academy Journal of Science and Engineering (AJSE) of the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna
2012 – 2022

Defining fulfilment correctly cannot just be a function of so many of the things that it has often been associated with. Money, title, position and power are all great ingredients of a rounded life, but cannot fully define how fulfilled a life is lived. How satisfied with our lives we are, or how satisfied others are with our lives; while we are and when we are no more; are beyond the scope of most of the parameters of achievement and attainments, by which fulfilment is often defined.

Late Professor Folagbade Olusoga Peter Oriola, defines fulfilment both by the way he lived while he lived and by the legacies he left behind after his exit. He lived a life that epitomizes fulfilment and illustrate intrinsic satisfaction in all things. He found satisfaction, not in and through the things outside him, but in those things within him.

It was Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 – 180 AD), Roman Emperor and Stoic Philosopher, who said, “Every living organism is fulfilled when it follows the right path for its own nature.” Prof Oriola lived and passed away fulfilled because he followed the path defined by his own intrinsic nature and found satisfaction exclusively in those things that littered his path in life.



Corresponding author's e-mail: ooige@nda.edu.ng

website: www.academyjsekad.edu.ng

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY)

Born on 12th February 1957, in Ibadan, Nigeria; he had his academic foundations laid in public educational institutions at St Peter's Primary School Aremo and Government College, Apata. Yet, public education was not a deterrent for excellence for him but a springboard for fulfilment all through. Despite his public education background, he came out of the University of Lagos with a First Class BSc Honors Degree in Civil Engineering in 1976. His subsequent MSc/DIC in Concrete Structures at the Imperial College London in 1984 and Doctorate Degree in Reinforced Concrete Structures at Southampton University, UK, in 1989; were all part of the natural progression of excellence that was a part of him and will be throughout his life.

His career trajectory, through Eteh Aro & Partners, Ibadan; Waterman Partnership and Station Group, both in London; Taibel Construction Company Limited and HOD Associates, both in Kaduna; were characterized with highlight of achievements and fulfilment, and prepared him for all that would be for him at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, where he served the longest and the best.

Whether as HOD, Civil Engineering Department; Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Treasurer, NDA Civilian Multipurpose Cooperative Society; member of different strategic committees at the State, Learned Society or Institutional Level or as a church/community leader; his fulfilment was not in what those privileged positions offered but in those things in him that he could make available in accomplishing the tasks at hand. Professional ranking and status did not form a limiting factor for his fulfilment and what he considered possible

As a well published academic researcher, he researched broadly yet with focus; he wrote succinctly yet expressively; and engaged thoroughly with all the rigors that a successful academic career demands. Yet, despite his published book "Basic Structural Analysis (Determinate Structures)" and several academic publications in journals of repute, he never defined himself nor limit his fulfilment to merely what his pen could write. Fulfilment, for him was far beyond intellectual display of fancy theories and extends much more into how knowledgeable men can serve to make a difference in the life of many.



As an educator, he was exceptional in improving the learning outcome of his cadets over the many years of his classroom engagements in the courses he taught. His key tools towards achieving this were commitment and hard work. One of his prominent ways of expressing being exceptional is the regularity of his punctuality and his commitment to keeping the abundant deadlines that the NDA landscape demands. Even when the challenges of his health should have served as a legitimate excuse, he still submitted the result and grade of his last taught courses before the deadline.

His fulfilment is not based on his popularity and status in several circles he belonged, but by the several acts of kindness that defines his relationship with others. Since his passing, quite a lot has been revealed through the narrative of those at the receiving end of his magnanimity and benevolence.

His fulfilment is defined in the largeness of heart that provided many years of mentoring for younger academics and others who see him as a worthy leader and a great coach. Others raised by his inputs, who sometimes have shone brighter and faster than him in the things he taught them, are still around to bear witness, that, as a life mentor and career coach, he was a fulfilled man. He is not a man to pull others down so that he may rise to replace them. He will rather be the stairs for others to rise. Rather than be engaged in the usual toxic contentions for professional visibility, he will leave the scene quietly with his dignity intact.

For him, truth is nonnegotiable always! Yet, he never uses the truth as a weapon to intimidate, manipulate, dominate or condemn. He simply motivates with truth! He has a splendid blend of candor and humor that passes a strong message across sharply, yet numbs the pain promptly. Whether you are on the same or opposite side of an argument with him, you cannot fault him for holding back on the truth, no matter how little he speaks.

His fulfilment is defined not by any singular mighty act but by all the nuances of daily stuffs; by the constancy of his conviction; and by hard work done with a passion for excellence and attention to details. There are enough who have been

impacted irreversibly by the output of his hard work to testify endlessly to his legacy.

For 11 years of his involvement with the editorial board of the Academy Journal of Science and Engineering (AJSE) and, as Deputy Editor in Chief and Head of the Technical Committee, through hard work and team disposition, the journal progressed and attained stability through his contribution. For those of us, privileged to walk closely with him at the AJSE, the journal was a passion he could not ignore till his very last days.

While we continue to wish the family, friends and loved ones God's comfort through the years ahead, we are resolved to further advance his legacy at AJSE and are strengthened knowing that for all of us also, "what we do in time, echoes through all eternity. "

Dr Olumide Ige, of the Department of Physics, Nigerian Defence Academy Kaduna, is the Editorial Assistant of the Academy Journal of Science and Engineering (AJSE). He writes for and on behalf of the Editorial Board of the Journal.