

OBITUARY

OBITUARY: Professor James Chipeta



Professor James Chipeta 01.03.1962- 02.03.2020

Professor James Chipeta was born on the 1st March 1962 in Lundazi, Eastern Zambia. He went to school at Chizongwe Secondary School completing in 1982. He was of the top students in his class with classmates like Professor Sekelani Banda. He studied Medicine at the University of Zambia School of Medicine from 1983 to 1990. He obtained his BSc Human Biology in 1988 and the MBChB in 1990. He married his wife Juliet in 1988. He did his internship at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) from 1990 to 1991. He worked as a Senior House officer at the Livingstone General Hospital for two years from 1992. He then joined the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the UTH to commence specialist training in Paediatrics in 1993. He was awarded the MonBosho

Scholarship to study Paediatrics and Clinical Immunology from 1994 to 2000 at Mie University in Japan. He obtained his PhD in Paediatrics and Clinical Immunology in 2000. He went on to acquire a Certificate in Advanced Immunology and Infectious Diseases under WHO in Lausanne in Switzerland.

He joined the Ministry of Health as Senior Registrar in Paediatrics and Child Health at UTH from 2000 to 2003. In 2004 he joined the University of Zambia as Lecturer Grade 1. In 2009 he was promoted to Senior Lecturer and in the same year he was appointed inaugural Assistant Dean Research. This is the post he held for 11 years till his untimely demise. In 2015 he was appointed as Associate Professor of

Paediatrics and Clinical Immunology. In 2018 he was appointed Full Professor of the University of Zambia. In 2013, he received the National Science and Technology Council Merit Award for Research and in 2018 he was awarded the meritorious award of the Zambia Medical Association. He had a Hirsch index of 21 and a Researchgate score of 37.32.

He held over 15 grants exceeding 3 million dollars. His citations were over 1,600. He had over 61 peer review journal publications and contributed to 15 book chapters. He supervised 21 postgraduate students. He was external examiner at 3 Regional and sub-regional Universities (University of Rwanda, University of Zimbabwe and University of Kwazulu Natal).

Professor James Chipeta was a long standing Associate Editor of the *Medical Journal of Zambia*. He was also Specialty Editor in Paediatrics as well as a trainer and mentor for academic writers in Medical and Clinical sciences for the Journal.

Professor Chipeta fell ill after returning from a conference in Japan the week of the 15th December 2020. He was admitted to the UTH on Sunday 22nd December 2020 and transferred to Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital on the following day. He died on the 2nd of March 2020. He leaves behind his wife, Juliet, two sons Caleb and Joshua, as well as his daughter Wezi. His professional service was held by the Zambia Medical Association at the UNZA Ridgeway Campus Public Health Lecture Theatre Hall on the 5th March 2020. His funeral service was attended by the Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chifuya and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia Professor Luke Mumba. The two men paid glowing tribute to his contribution to Health Service, Health Care Research and Training.

Professor Kasonde Bowa
Lusaka, Zambia