

Tribute to Claude Ake

The Editorial Board would like to express its deep regret at the death this year in a plane crash of Prof Claude Ake of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Claude Ake is perhaps best-known in South Africa as the author of *The Political Economy of Africa*. Likeable and energetic, he was one of the first African social scientists to try creatively and critically to come to grips with the main social and political characteristics of African society. Invited to present a paper on ethnicity in Africa at a conference in Pietermaritzburg several years ago, we were pleased to publish it in edited form in *Transformation*. His premature death is a sad event for Nigeria and for Africa.