



## **BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT BONI YAYI**

Dr. Boni T. Yayi has sworn into office as the twelfth President of the Republic of Benin on April 6, 2006 after winning overwhelmingly the presidential elections held in March 2006. In this capacity, he is the Head of State and the Head of the Government of Benin.

Prior to this position, Dr. Yayi served from 1994 to 2006 as President of the West African Development Bank, a regional financial institution based in Lome, Togo.

President Boni Yayi was born in 1952 in Tchaourou, in northern Benin where he grew up.

He earned a Master's degree in economics from the National University of Benin and advanced degrees in economics from the National University of Benin and advanced degrees in economics and banking from the University of Dakar, Senegal and from the West African Center for Banking Studies of the Central Bank of West African States, also based in Dakar. He also holds a doctoral degree in economics and politics from the University of Orleans, France, and a PH-D in economics from the University of Paris- Dauphine.

As banker, President Yayi has had a distinguished career both at national and international levels:

- 1975-1977: served at the Benin Commercial Bank;
- 1977-1989: served in various positions at the Central Bank of West African States
- 1992-1994: Technical Advisor to the President of Benin for monetary and bank affairs, member of the Macroeconomic Analysis Cell of the President's Office.
- 1994-2006: President of the West African Development Bank. During his 12 year tenure, he succeeded in reorganizing the management of the Bank and in bringing in new shareholders and funds, which led to increased activities.

For his work as President of the West African Development Bank, he was appointed:

- Commandeur de l'Ordre National of Republic of Benin
- Commandeur de l'Ordre National of Republic of Burkina Faso
- Commandeur de l'Ordre National of Republic of Mali
- Commandeur de l'Ordre National of Republic of Niger
- Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Lion of the Republic of Senegal
- Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite of the French Republic.

Following his swearing into office, he has been promoted to Grand Officier de l'Ordre National of the Republic of Benin.

Dr. Boni Yayi is married to Chantal Yayi and a father of five children.

December, 2006