



ABOUT THE NEW BENIN PRESIDENT - PATRICE TALON

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BIRTH

Patrice was born May 1, 1958. He grew up in Degue-Gare in Porto-Novo.

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TALON THE FON

Talon is a Fon, one of Benin's main ethnic and linguistic groups and some believe this has helped his businesses and political career.

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EDUCATION

After high school he studied at the University of Dakar. He attempted to transfer to Paris' National School of Civil Aviation (ENAC). But, despite passing the entrance exams; he failed a medical test.

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MARRIAGE

Patrice Talon is married to Claudine, a native woman of Porto-Novo and he has two children.

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BUSINESS

In 1983, Patrice Talon started his first major business of packaging agricultural inputs. In 1985 he created the Inter-Continental Distribution Company (SDI), providing agricultural inputs to cotton farmers. to solve the problem.

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BUSINESS MONOPOLY

Talon won then the bid for three cotton ginning factories in Benin. He has been criticized for trying to create a monopoly of the cotton production chain

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POLITICAL CONNECTIONS

2006 and 2011, he sponsored the first election of Yayi Boni, Critics allege that because of this support he was rewarded with a 2008 tender for the privatization of the cotton division Sonapra

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GROWING EMPIRE

Two months before the re-election of Yayi Boni, Talon won another tender allowing him to manage the tariffs of the port of Cotonou, which has annual revenues of about 2 billion (1.5 billion euros)

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EXILE

After Yayi's reelection he fell out of favor with him and accused of involvement in a plot to kill him but fled to France in 2012 and was eventually pardoned in 2014. After his pardon he returned to Benin to run as an independent candidate in the Presidential election.

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ASCENDING TO PRESIDENCY

Despite narrowly losing in the first round by about 100,000 votes, Patrice received the support of 24 of the 32 candidates from the first round. He won with 65% in the second round