

PRESIDENT MASIRE
OF BOTSWANA

President Quett Ketumile Joni Masire was born on July 23, 1925 in Southern Botswana. Having completed his secondary school education in South Africa, he became a teacher and went on to work as a journalist and later director of African Echo.



Dr. Masire was co-founder of the Botswana Democratic Party and was elected to the National Assembly in 1965. On independence in 1966 he became Vice-President. Although defeated in the 1969 general election, he was returned by the Assembly as Special Elected Member (one of four allowed under the Constitution).

After serving jointly as both Vice-President and Minister of Finance, and following the death of the late President Sir Seretse Khama, he was elected President in 1980 by a special ballot of the National Assembly. Dr. Masire was again returned as President, winning a landslide victory in Botswana's fifth general election in September 1984.

Dr. Masire is also chairman of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) which is based in Gabarone, the capital of Botswana.

During the 1980-85 period, the bilateral relationship has been strengthened by numerous high-level visits, including the visit of Colin Blackbeard, Botswana's Minister of Works and Communications and his Permanent Secretary Moses Lekhaka in July 1985. In November 1985, Vice-President and Minister of Finance, Mr. Peter Masu led a SADCC Delegation to Ottawa