

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría

President of Costa Rica

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez Echeverría was born in Costa Rica on Jan. 9, 1940. He obtained a bachelor's degree in economics and law from the University of Costa Rica in 1962 and a doctorate in economics from the University of California in 1966. Prior to entering politics in 1963, Mr. Rodríguez taught economics at the University of Costa Rica. He was also in the agro-export business, primarily in cattle breeding.

Mr. Rodríguez is a member of the Social Christian Unity Party. He has held numerous government posts, including Minister of Planning from 1966 to 1970. He was elected Deputy to the Legislative Assembly in 1990, a function he held until 1993. He also served as President of the Assembly in 1991 and 1992. Elected President of Costa Rica in February 1998, Mr. Rodríguez took office on May 8 of that year. He is married and has two children.

Pierre Charles

Prime Minister of Dominica

Pierre Charles was born on June 30, 1954, and is a teacher by training. He has been involved in Dominica's political life for more than 20 years.

A longtime deputy leader of the Labour Party, Mr. Charles has been a member of Parliament since 1986. He is a former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and Works.

Mr. Charles became Prime Minister of Dominica on Oct. 3, 2000. He is also the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs and National Security.

Mr. Charles is married and has three children.