



POPULAR

Life story

Alejandro E. Grullón E.



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A descendant of a family who has greatly contributed to the nation's well-being, Mr. Alejandro E. Grullón E. was born on April 3rd 1929 in Santiago de los Caballeros.

Dominicans consider Mr. Alejandro E. Grullón E. as the pioneer of the country's national financial system due to his noteworthy performance and visionary role in the Dominican Republic's first bank with private capital, which from the start gathered nationwide shareholders and savers from all walks of life.

Nevertheless, his contributions to society delve beyond the world of finance, becoming a real driving force of our country's development.

Initially involved in the family lumber and agricultural production business, he soon became aware of the different accessible financial services needed by other young entrepreneurs like him. For this reason, he rallied to awaken interest in the creation of a bank with private capital with representation in six important provinces, from within the Asociación por el Desarrollo de Santiago, Inc. (APEDI) (association for Santiago's Development) whilst collaborating with the incorporation of prominent national institutions.

From the beginning, Banco Popular offered services to small industries and the rural sector; it also allowed the opening of saving and checking accounts with low deposits. This translated into an increase in access to financial services by the Dominican population and consequently opening of channels for economic growth and progress.

In order to offer a broader range of financial services, several financial institutions were created under his supervision, thus allowing him to continue expanding the product portfolio.

Mr. Alejandro E. Grullón E. presided over Banco Popular throughout its first 25 years of existence and distinguished himself for being the founder and president of, amongst others, Tenedora Popular, C. x A., in 1970, known today as Grupo Popular, S.A., where he presided as Chairman of the Board of Administration until April 26, 2014..

Promoter of national institutional structures

Throughout the years when Banco Popular Dominicano was established and consolidated, Alejandro E. Grullón E. understood the need to work together as a sector, for that reason he initiated the Dominican Republic's Asociación de Bancos Comerciales (ABA). He was also involved in the creation of a business which was more committed with his country through the Fundación Dominicana de Desarrollo (FDD) and the creation of the Fundación Institucionalidad y Justicia (FINJUS), in order to contribute with the debate and formalization of a more effective and transparent judicial system.

He has also been closely tied to other important national institutions such as Santiago's Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Acción Pro-Educación y Cultura (APEC), Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone Governance Commission and the Promotion of Foreign Investments Commission, among others.

Throughout his extensive business career of over 50 years, he has been acknowledged for outstanding achievement, his visionary spirit and entrepreneurial nature, capable of creating and developing businesses and institutions that have significantly contributed to the process of strengthening the country's economic and social development. During this time, Mr. Grullón has played important roles in various committees of prominent entrepreneurs, created to face the country's intricate challenges throughout last five decades.

During this time he has continued supporting institutional initiatives aimed at improving issues of interest for the Dominican people, such as the "Comisión de Seguimiento a los Trabajos de Remozamiento y Mantenimiento de la Basílica Catedral Nuestra Señora de La Altagracia" (Renovation and Maintenance to the Basilica Cathedral of Our Lady of Altagracia Monitoring Committee), the Patronato del Palacio de los Deportes "Virgilio Travieso Soto" (Charitable Foundation for the Virgilio Travieso Soto Sports Arena), the Fundación Patronato Cueva de las Maravillas (the Cueva de las Maravillas Foundation), the Sur Futuro Foundation, La Altagracia Museum and the President's Council of Advisors. Upon the death of his brother, Arturo Grullón E., Mr. Alejandro was named, through a decree issued by the Executive Power, the Chairman of the Plan Sierra Board of Directors. This is a non-profit organization that deals with the preservation of water throughout the country's river basins in the north. Today it is the Dominican Republic's most important environmental sustainability project which relies on significant annual contributions by Banco Popular.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Grullón has received many acknowledgements throughout the years, including the Order of Duarte, Sanchez and Mella, in the rank of Commander, the Heraldic Order of Christopher Columbus, and the Silver Cross of the National Order of Merit from the President of the Dominican Republic.

For his contributions to the Panamanian financial system, through the internationally licensed subsidiary Popular Bank, the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Martín Torrijos Espino, awarded him the Vasco Núñez de Balboa Order in 2009, in the grade of Grand Officer.

His Sanctity the pope John Paul II awarded the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great in the grade of Grand Cross on August 25th 1997.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities by the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra on January 25th 1997, and an Honorary Doctorate in Administrative Sciences on October 2008 by the Universidad Central del Este.



Months before, on August 2008, the Dominican House of Representatives acknowledged him emphasizing "his financial vision and high service values". Later, in June 2011, the Senate awarded him for his "contributions in the Dominican Republic's economic and social arena, for his unimpeachable life and for conducting himself as an exemplary citizen who acts in the country's best interest".

In April 2014, at the joint Shareholders Meeting held for Banco Popular Dominicano and Grupo Popular, the appointment of Mr. Alejandro E. Grullón E., as Ad Vitam Chairman, a position which has only been awarded to his person and as Emeritus Advisor to both institutions was approved. This lifetime acknowledgement is the most outstanding honor granted by the organization to recognize his well-known trajectory and contributions to the national financial system.

Don Alejandro has since been at the forefront of the Fundación Popular, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which deals with the Popular brand at an institutional level, as well as its contribution to society, designing and implementing policies and actions of economic, social and environmental sustainability, through the creation of shared values together with civil society organizations, in order to fulfill, in a balanced manner, the development and welfare expectations of the Dominican Republic.

In May 2015, during the launch of the Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance Chair that bears his name, he received an award from the PUCMM Director, Reverend Father Ramon Alfredo de la Cruz Baldera, for his role as an exemplary citizen, promoter of philanthropic works and social welfare, and a model of moral commitment that has inspired several generations of the country's bankers and entrepreneurs.