

Appointment of the Director of Public Prosecutions  
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The Department of Justice announced today (October 12) the appointment of Mr Ian Charles McWalters, SC, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, to succeed Mr Ian Grenville Cross, SC, as the Director of Public Prosecutions with effect from October 22. Mr Cross will proceed on final leave on the same day after 31 years of service with the Government.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is the head of the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice and is responsible for public prosecutions, the development of prosecutions policy and advising the Secretary for Justice on all criminal matters.

Commenting on Mr McWalters' appointment, the Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC, said, "Mr McWalters has indepth legal knowledge, strong professional competence as well as leadership skills. I am confident that he will be able to lead the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice to meet the challenges ahead and continue to deliver quality service to the people of Hong Kong."

On the departure of Mr Cross, Mr Wong said, "Mr Cross has rendered 31 years of loyal and dedicated service to the community and has commanded high respect from both the legal fraternity and within the civil service. He has contributed tremendously to enhance the image of Hong Kong's prosecution authority internationally. We sincerely wish him every success in his future endeavours."

Brief biographical notes on the two officers are set out below:

Mr Ian Grenville Cross, SC

Mr Cross, aged 58, was called to the Bar in the United Kingdom in 1974 and in Hong Kong in 1981. He was appointed Queen's Counsel (now Senior Counsel) in 1990. He joined the Government as Government Counsel in September 1978. He was promoted to Senior Government Counsel in April 1981, to Deputy Principal Government Counsel in April 1988, and to Principal Government Counsel in January 1991. He has been the Director of Public Prosecutions since October 1997.

Mr Ian Charles McWalters, SC

Mr McWalters, aged 58, was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales, Australia, in 1975 and as barrister and solicitor in Papua New Guinea in the same year. He was registered as a barrister and solicitor in the Australian Capital Territory in 1994 and in 2001 was admitted as a barrister in Queensland, Australia. He was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 2002 and appointed as Senior Counsel in 2005. He joined the Government as Government Counsel in October 1985. He was promoted to Senior Government Counsel in June 1988, to Deputy Principal Government Counsel in August 1994, and to Principal Government Counsel in June 2006.

Ends/Monday, October 12, 2009