

PRESS RELEASE

No. 279/2015

Date: 6th May 2015

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR GIBRALTAR COURTS SERVICE

Hazel Cumbo has been appointed as the Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Courts Service, having been Acting Chief Executive since 2013. The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for matters pertaining to the provision of the administration support to the Judiciary. She works closely with the Chief Justice to agree policies and procedures and service standards to ensure that the needs of the court and court users are met. She is also responsible for endeavouring to deliver excellent service, focused on the needs of the public, lawyers and court users.

Hazel first joined the Civil Service as an Administrative Assistant in 1985 and has progressed through the ranks to that of Chief Executive. In the early years, she worked at the Public Works Department until 1999 when, on promotion to the Executive Officer grade, she was appointed as a Labour Inspector at the Ministry of Employment and then in 2003 took up the post of Executive Officer at the Legislation Support Unit. On promotion to the Higher Executive Officer grade, she was appointed to the Justice Ministry as Personal Assistant to the Minister for Justice.

In 2010, Hazel was promoted to the post of Senior Executive Officer at the newly created Gibraltar Courts Service. This role was crucial in bringing about the unification of the back office administration of the Magistrates' and Supreme Courts and the modernisation of the court's system as a whole, establishing effective systems and working practices. In 2013, following the departure of the then Chief Executive, she was made Acting Chief Executive until last week when, on the advice of the Public Service Commission, she was appointed to the post, and thus becoming the first female to hold this post.

Hazel said, "I am extremely happy with my appointment and I look forward to continue working with my team to support the Judiciary and the legal profession in providing a solid administrative structure through which the public can have access to the justice system. In my time as acting Chief Executive my staff and I, together with the Judiciary and court users, have brought about changes leading to improvements and I am well aware of the ongoing need to improve the service that we provide."



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