

CM to be sworn in after PM's visit

KOTA KINABALU The swearing in of Sabah's 12th chief minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and his new state Cabinet of interesting and significant changes is expected to take place in about 10 days.

Chong said the state hoped to schedule the swearing in ceremony by March 27 or March 28 after the scheduled two-day visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Sabah from March 24.

He said the swearing in could not be done next week because Yang di-Pertuan Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai with outgoing Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam would be attending the

Rulers Conference starting on Wednesday.

There will be some changes in interesting and significant changes. Some portfolios will also be switched. The 53-year-old Liberal Democratic Party president told reporters at the airport where he was welcomed by more than 100 party supporters.

Also at the airport was Sabah Umno treasurer Datuk Musa Aman, a Minister in the Chief Minister's Department, who is tipped to be given a key portfolio in the Cabinet.

Chong, who is likely to keep his current Tourism Development En-

vironment Science and Technology portfolio, said the preliminary line-up of the Cabinet was ready.

I have to discuss with the Prime Minister sometime next week, he said when asked about the composition of his new Cabinet.

On who would get the finance minister's post now held by Osu, he replied, I have no doubt that we'll get the right people in the new line-up.

Asked if he had met Osu after Dr Mahathir's announcement on Friday, Chong said, I could not reach him because he was busy with meetings with Umno members (in the peninsula).

STAR

18 MAR 2001