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Joint swearing-in of CM, Cabinet

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KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Sabah's Chief Minister designate Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and members of his Cabinet will be sworn-in on March 27, the State Istana said.

Based on an invitation sent out by Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai's private secretary, Chong will take his oath of office before the Head of State at the State Istana at 9.40am.

Another invitation was sent out for the swearing-in of Chong's Cabinet at the State Istana at 2.40pm.

The swearing-in for the Assistant Ministers is expected to take place on March 28.

Chong's appointment as Sabah's Chief Minister was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president takes over from Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam.

Chong is currently in Kuala Lumpur to discuss with Dr Mahathir the composition of his Cabinet line-up.

It is learnt Chong's Cabinet would include at least two or three new Ministers and three new Assistant Ministers.

Those tipped to be included in the new Cabinet are Sabah Umno deputy chief Datuk Salleh Tun Said, Kalabakan Assemblyman Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

It is widely speculated that Chong will have only one Deputy Chief Minister this time.

Currently, there are three Deputy Chief Ministers representing the Muslim Bumiputeras, non-Muslim Bumiputeras and Chinese.