KUCHING: Samariang assemblywoman Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali, 43, and businessman Kenil Jaraee, 61, were both sworn in yesterday as new political secretaries to the chief minister.

Both took their oath of office before Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud during a brief swearing-in ceremony held at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here.

Hasidah, who hails from Kuching, graduated with a Bachelor of Law from Islamic International University (UIA). Her legal firm Sharifah Hasidah & Co. was formed in 2003. She was elected to the state legislative assembly on May 20, 2006.

She is presently a PBB Supreme Council member, an exco member of its Wanita wing, and PBB Samariang branch head.

Hasidah is also the chairperson of Biro Sosial of PBB Exco Wanita, and has been a Saberkas Exco member since 2007.

Kenil, 61, a Melanau, is a businessman from Kampung Teh, Oya, Mukah. He completed his Overseas Senior Cambridge in 1972 and has attended various leadership and communication seminars like Psywar/Psyps and Political Intelligence, and Political Communication. He was with the Malaysian Information Department from 1973 to 1991 and served in Dalat, Sibu and Belaga.

He has served as Private Secretary to the Minister of Tourism when Dato Sri Dr Muhammed Leo Toyad was the minister then.

He joined politics in 1981, and is presently the vice & deputy Dalat PBB branch chief. Kenil is also a councillor with the Mukah District Council, a member of the board of directors of the State Farmer Organisation (2008-2011) and has been chairman of the Agriculture Organisation (AFO) Dalat since 1998.

He has been chairman of DUBS Dalat branch since 2008.

Kenil is also active in social and community services in his hometown of Oya. He has been a committee member of Pemadam Dalat since 1999.

Among those present at the ceremony were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, State Secretary Datuk Amar Mohd Morshidi Abdul Ghani, and Chief Political Secretary Abdullah Saidol.