

1,000 DOCTORS RESIGNED BETWEEN 2011 AND 2017

MMA head says maldistribution had led to burnout, forcing some to quit their jobs

Its president, Dr Koh Kar Chai, said the maldistribution of doctors had led to burnout among those on the roster, with some quitting their jobs.

He said that by the time the Health Ministry came up with a solution to the contract system issue, several doctors on contract had already resigned.

"This had caused shortages in many of public healthcare facilities.

"There were also many medical officers being posted to East Malaysia with no immediate replacements in their positions in healthcare facilities in the peninsula," he said.

"In certain states, only one or two sub-specialists are running



Specialists and consultants' perks should be increased to prevent a greater brain drain, says Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Koh Kar Chai (inset). FILE PIC

the sub-specialist service for an entire state. "Some doctors from the general pool are being roped in to serve in sub-specialty services," he added.

Dr Koh said the MMA had made suggestions to the ministry on the matter and was grateful for its efforts to resolve the issue.

"However, the issue of medical officers' maldistribution needs to

also be resolved quickly.

"The MMA has presented multiple papers to the ministry and the Public Service Department, which included the suggestion of allowances for sub-specialists as among the steps to overcome the issue.

"Specialists and consultants' perks should be increased to prevent more brain drain," he said.

Dr Koh said unless the issue was addressed, there would be a severe lack of manpower on the frontline within a decade.

"We will lack the human capital needed at a time where the demand for healthcare services is increasing. We will also lack certain specialist services, and there will not be enough senior doctors to train the junior doctors."

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SOME 1,000 specialists resigned from the government service between 2011 and 2017, claimed the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).