

1,000 specialists have resigned from govt service from 2011 to 2017

By [Luqman Hakim](#) - July 3, 2022 @ 5:02pm



The maldistribution of doctors has led to burnout among those on the roster with some quitting their jobs, Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Dr. Koh Kar Chai said. - File pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The maldistribution of doctors has led to burnout among those on the roster with some quitting their jobs, Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Dr. Koh Kar Chai said.

He said a number of contract doctors had resigned by the time Health Ministry came up with a solution to the contract system issue.

"These doctors leaving has caused shortages in many of our 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 a text message when contacted.

Dr Koh said around 1,000 specialists had resigned from government service from 2011 until 2017 for various reasons.

"In certain states, only one or two sub specialists are running the sub-specialist service for entire state.

"Some doctors from the general pool are also being roped in to serve in subspecialty services," he said.

Dr. Koh said that MMA had given multiple suggestions to the Health 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.

"MMA has presented multiple papers to ministry and the Public Services Department which included the suggestion of sub specialist allowance as among steps to overcome the issue.

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

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

"We will lack the human capital needed at a time where the demand for healthcare services are increasing.

"We will also lack certain specialist services and there will not be enough senior doctors to train the junior doctors," he said.