

Dr. Chan Hoi Yuk
Vice Chairman
The Tuen Mun Hospital Doctors' Association

Dear Dr. Hon. Kwok Ka Ki
Legislative Councillor
Representative of Medical Functional Group

16 March 2007

Dear Dr Kwok,

Unfair Health Resource Allocation to NT West

We, the Tuen Mun Hospital Doctors' Association, write to express our deep concerns about the unfair allocation of health resource to NT West cluster by the Hospital Authority.

All through these years, the Association has communicated with the Management on this issue but received no satisfactory remedial action. With the opening of Pok Oi Hospital July this year, the situation might become worse if no additional medical manpower comes with it. We decided to request your assistance to bring this issue into the Health Panel of Legislative Council for discussion.

We could not have access to the detailed budget distribution among the 7 clusters in Hospital Authority. What we have done to justify our argument is to do simple calculation on the number of HA doctors per population, which we believe would give a clear picture on the uneven distribution of resources. Please read the attached table.

We have deliberately separated psychiatry doctors because its service is cross-cluster. We wish to highlight to you that the medical manpower in Kowloon Central (1.14 per 1000) is more than two and a half times that of our NT West (0.44 per 1000). The senior grade doctor (associate consultant or above) per population figure of Kowloon Central is more than triples that of NT West, 0.42 per 1000 versus 0.13 per 1000.

The Management has explained to us that a major part of the population in NT West

works in Kowloon or HK Island and they seek medical consultation in these clusters; and we do not have high technology medical service in NT West. Therefore we need less doctors.

We do not accept this explanation for 3 reasons:

- (1) Most of the patients we take care are elderly patients who have retired already. Even for young patients, if they become urgently sick, there is no reason that they will risk a long journey to go to Kowloon or Hong Kong Island.
- (2) High technology medicine does not demand the number of doctors but only the expertise of doctors.
- (3) There is not even one single private hospital in NT West. Given the adverse socio-economic condition of people in our cluster, the demand for public health service should be even greater.

We understand that HA is facing a very serious budget deficit. However as the old Chinese saying says: “People does not worry shortage, Unevenness is what people worries”, we hope that the Health Panel could enquire and investigate on this issue to do fairness to the people living in NT West.

NT West people are not second-class citizens.

And we are not second-class doctors.

Yours Sincerely,

Chan Hoi Yuk

On behalf of the Tuen Mun Hospital Doctors' Association.

Medical Manpower in the HA (as on 31 March 2006) excluding Psychiatry.

	Total doctors	Senior grade doctors	Population in 2006 (1,000)	Total doctors per every 1,000 population	Senior grade doctor per every 1,000 population
HK East	494	146	806	0.61	0.18
HK West	478	183	526	0.91	0.35
KLW Central	564	206	493	1.14	0.42
KLW East	533	161	945	0.56	0.17
KLW West	1040	343	1880	0.55	0.18
NT East	730	223	1307	0.56	0.17
NT West	478	142	1079	0.44	0.13