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## Another 2 doctors quit Pokoi

THE doctor shortage at Pokoi hospital has worsened with the resignation of two doctors, it was learnt yesterday. There are now four doctors left there.

The resignations came at a time when the hospital has received renewed complaints about casualty services in Yuenlong owing to the doctor shortage.

The hospital's board of directors recently held an emergency meeting on the problem.

The directors will be sending a letter to the Medical and Health Department later this week to seek some form of help.

It was learnt that the letter will ask the government to provide land for the hospital as soon as possible so Pokoi's expansion programme can proceed without delay.

The directors will also urge the government to require newly-graduated medical students to serve subvented hospitals such as Pokoi for a certain period before they can "go out on their own".

According to its expansion programme, Pokoi will have 400 beds with some 30 doctors by 1987, provided the government will give all the assistance needed.

The government has said for a few years that it is considering the land request, but nothing has come of this so far, according to a source close to the hospital.

Also, according to Pokoi's five-stage expansion programme, it will start building an emergency ward next year. But with the present acute shortage of doctors, the hospital is not sure if the plan can proceed smoothly.

The source said more than 3,000 people each month between July and September sought emergency services in Pokoi.

Pokoi does not have sophisticated emergency treatment facilities, such as a 24-hour anaesthetic, X-ray and blood bank services.

The source said Yuenlong has about 300,000 people and emergency service is badly needed.