

No one reacted to toilet alarm

WHEN I walked into the gents' restroom at Plaza Singapura the other day, I saw the flashing lights of the Disabled Toilet Duress Alarm.

The alarm, at the entrance to the restroom, would have caught the attention of every person who walked into either the gents' or the ladies'.

The notice beside the alarm instructed people to call for assistance. However, other than a man who stared at the alarm, nobody reacted at all.

The first thought that came to my mind was that a disabled person may be lying on the floor in the toilet cubicle, perhaps after falling off his wheelchair or

slipping from his crutches.

I immediately ran to the disabled toilet, only to see an empty toilet cubicle.

As I switched off the alarm, I heaved a sigh of relief that nobody was in danger or harmed.

But it made me wonder if sufficient public education has been provided about such alarms.

When the fire alarm goes off in a public building, people casually wait for an announcement to confirm if it is a genuine alarm.

Are we becoming a nation of nonchalant people who do not take alarms seriously?