

# Some cleaners just not fit for the job

Letter from Francis Han Jit Kwang

CLEANING jobs require people who are physically fit.

I am sure employers would like to hire more senior citizens, but some of the people in this group are definitely unfit and hence unable to do a good job of cleaning toilets and housing estates and sweeping public roads.

In the past, roads, hawker centres and estates were cleaner. The underlying cause (towards the reverse) is the privatisation programmes.

We outsource parking attendant jobs, not to mention those for estate cleaning, road cleaning and for the cleaning of hawker centres.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Ministry of the Environment should keep a close watch on the type of people hired to do these jobs.

Companies contracted to undertake these jobs should not just fill vacancies without taking into account the physical ability, fitness and interests of candidates to do a good job.

The NEA should set minimum standards and criteria for cleaning jobs.

I am not against employing seniors.

I am 63 years old and fitter and stronger than most of the senior citizens I know doing such jobs.

Yet I know I would not be able to do a good job as a cleaner. How can we then expect standards of hygiene to be raised, if we hire old folks?

The writer is a former chairman of Kaki Bukit Community Centre Management Committee.