

'Leave 3rd-world habits behind'

Lim Swee Say: We can't merely depend on the Government to ensure hygiene

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Buona Vista constituency is hoping to be the first division to get all 198 of its eating establishments the Singapore OK (SOK) status.

The timeframe? Three months, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Lim Swee Say said yesterday after presenting the constituency's first SOK approvals to the Holland Village Market and Food Centre as well as the Food Junction Food Court in Holland Village Shopping Mall.

"In this way, all of us will be able to enjoy a clean and healthy environment, which is one safeguard against the spread of infectious diseases," said the minister, who is also the adviser to the Buona Vista grassroots organisations.

"Singapore is a first-world country, we should leave these third-world habits behind."

Singapore OK was launched in 2003 to promote the widespread adoption of good hygiene and public health practices.

The Buona Vista OK campaign is the first constituency-wide campaign initiated by the Buona Vista grassroots organisations in support of the SOK programme, which was relaunched by the National Environment Agency on May 1.

A team of 30 grassroots members from the Buona Vista OK team was drafted to speak to food stall operators to enlist them for the initiative.

These volunteers have been trained to inspect the estate on environmental issues and will work closely with the Town Council to promote and ensure the continuity of the campaign.



From left: Mr Andrew Tan, CEO of NEA; cleaner Pavayi; Minister Lim Swee Say and Mr Lim Geok San, Chairman of the Holland Village Shopkeepers and Stall Holders Association; cleaning the toilet at the Holland Village Market. WEE TECK HIAN

Mr Lim also urged the community to do their part, especially given the current threat of a flu outbreak.

"Since the launch of the Singapore OK programme five to six years ago, over the years, in terms of the ground and the implementation, we may have slackened a little bit," he said.

"So we feel it's important during a time like this — let's remind ourselves, and remind everyone that we can't just wait and count on the NEA to solve the problem, we can't count on MOH to solve the problem."