



The 700,000 yuan (S\$143,200) public toilet in Huaiyin district features flower-adorned basins, a flat-screen TV and a lounge. However, residents have been unimpressed. One said the money should have been better spent. PHOTO: XINHUA

Luxury toilet raises a stink

JINAN: It is adorned with flowers, has a water cooler, air-conditioning and a flat-screen TV.

This is not a hotel room, but a public toilet in China, where "clean toilet" is an oxymoron.

Completing the 200 sq m toilet in Huaiyin district in Jinan, Shandong province, is a lounge with sofas, Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

But with a 700,000 yuan (S\$143,200) price tag, the toilet has raised a stink since its opening.

A local resident said: "Who will enjoy drinking tea and watching TV in a toilet?" Another resident said the money should have been used on more important things, like health care and education.

Professor Wang Zhongwu of Shandong University said the "wasteful" project may damage the gov-

ernment's credibility.

An official at the Huaiyin district Environmental Sanitation Bureau defended the luxurious toilet, saying it was a face-saving move.