

Picking cheapest tender: Have a heart for elderly cleaners

I REFER to last Wednesday's report, 'Civil servants rapped for sloppiness', which took the Ministry of Education (MOE) to task for not considering the lowest bid for a cleaning contract in schools.

I wish to highlight the plight of many cleaners in schools. Their job is no easier than yours or mine. They have to clean dirty toilets, messy canteens, carry hundreds of chairs and desks to prepare school halls for examinations and sometimes even climb on chairs to clean lights and tall windows. Many of them are the elderly.

If MOE accepted only the lowest bid, the ones to suffer would be the many low-paid elderly cleaners trying to make a living. Surely cleaning companies will cut their pay further so they can win the contract. Have a heart. We should pay cleaners reasonably.

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