

# Far from clean and green in the heartland

I REFER to last Saturday's commentary, 'Singapore's greener, but is it cleaner?'

Forty years after the launch of the campaign to keep Singapore clean and green, the cleanliness of our city remains in a sad state. Nowhere is this more evident than in the HDB heartland.

While visitors sing praises of Singapore's cleanliness and greenery, it is far from the truth. What visitors do not see is places where Singaporeans spend most of their time: coffee shops, hawker centres, markets and the vicinity of HDB blocks.

Lack of social grace is evident everywhere - from letting wet laundry drip to the floor below, sweeping dust into the common area and indiscriminate spitting, to commuters not giving way to alighting passengers, eating on buses and trains, littering, not picking up dog poo, inconsiderate drivers, filthy toilets and not holding the lifts for another.

The irony is that those who display such incongruous behaviour are the ones who demand good service from others.

Can we see the light at the end of the tunnel? If we want to be a gracious society, it is imperative to take the clean and green campaign to greater heights. Instil awareness from kindergarten onwards. Keep up the momentum and do not let up on the drive to spread the message. Parents and community centres can play a pivotal role in our quest to achieve the dream of a clean and green city.

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