

How to get more locals to fill cleaning positions

MANY Singaporeans shy away from the cleaning industry, and I believe the main reason for this is the low salary offered for cleaning jobs.

Cleaners usually do not earn more than \$1,000 a month, and the job is usually dirty and comes with **shift** duties. There is also usually no allowance for weekend work or night-shift duties.

Cleaning companies should try to **optimise** their operations using technology, so that there is higher productivity and less dependence on labour. The labour savings can then be passed on to the workers by way of higher wages.

I believe that, if employers pay enough, workers will **flock to** such jobs, however strenuous or dirty they may be.

Singaporeans would rather look for other jobs than work in an industry that leaves them

with nothing much after deducting transport costs, CPF contributions, and meal and other miscellaneous costs.

If employers can pay workers at least \$1,500 per month, I am sure that such jobs will attract enough Singaporeans.

In Australia, a minimum-wage policy of \$655 per week ensures that workers are "decently" compensated for their work, and bosses have no problems getting vacancies filled. Many "dirty" jobs - such as those of cleaners, **construction workers** and rubbish collectors - are readily filled as local workers are adequately compensated.

Cleaning companies here should thus look seriously at optimising their industry through modern technology and reduce their dependence on labour.

With enhanced productivity, companies can pay Singaporean workers enough to attract them into the unpopular industry. If

not, cleaning companies will keep facing a labour crunch as Singapore tries to rely less on foreign workers as an easy way out.

While foreigners should be welcomed if they can boost our economy with their **unique** skills and talents, they should not be allowed in simply because they are able to do a job cheaply.

The social costs are just too much to bear if we continue to allow in cheap labour.

MR GILBERT GOH KEOW WAH

HELPDESK 我的字典

Shift: 轮班制 lún bān zhì

Flock to: 蜂拥 fēng yōng

Construction workers: 建筑工人 jiàn zhù gōng rén

Unique: 独一无二的 dú yī wú èr de
