

Tekka market upgraded but the restrooms stink

MY FRIENDS and I frequent Little India and look forward to visiting Zhujiao Centre for a nice cuppa of teh tarek every time we are there. When it was closed last April for a major facelift, we had our 'fixes' at other nearby restaurants.

When the newly refurbished centre was opened last month, we looked forward to see the major improvements and were delighted to see escalators, brighter lighting, spacious corridors, better toilets and cleaner hawker stalls, which were indeed a welcome sign.

Amid all these improvements, we were disappointed by what came after.

Toilet users are charged 10 cents per entry and there is no toilet paper provided. We were asked to pay another 10 cents for a small two-ply sheet of toilet paper. The elderly folk who man the entry counters cannot be faulted as they follow management's instructions.

The toilets were indeed in a sorry state, meaning they were wet and dirty with urine all over, not to mention unflushed toilets (which, of course, depends on users' habits). Unfortunately, I did not have a camera to take photos. We had already heard about the bad state of the toilets from others.

We know it is impossible to keep toilets clean all the time with heavy human traffic, but we feel the money spent renovating the centre has gone to waste. If I have to pay to use the toilet, I expect it to be cleaner than, say, public toilets in MRT stations and bus interchanges where there is no charge.

The wash basins at different points in the hawker centre are great but are constantly dirty with food particles and other rubbish.

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