

# FORUM

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## Clean loos? Stress upkeep and enforcement

I REFER to Mr Yap Swee Hoo's letter, "Upgrade toilets of all eating places" (ST, Oct 24).

When Minister Lim Swee Say was the Environment Minister, he initiated a programme to upgrade toilets in eating places and millions were spent but the desired results were not achieved.

In about half the toilets I visited recently, there was either no toilet paper or soap, or the place was badly ventilated. How could a food handler maintain hygiene when toiletries are not provided?

Upgrading of toilets is not the solution to having clean and hygienic toilets. Sustained maintenance by building management and enforcement by the National Environment Agency (NEA) are the answer.

Management should step up efforts to rectify whatever shortcomings or defects. If cost is a problem, it should charge a usage fee to defray the cost of maintenance.

The enforcement agency should enforce a high standard of cleanliness and maintenance relentlessly.

The NEA's "Singapore OK" stickers found outside many filthy toilets are a mockery of its efforts.

*Koh Geok Beng*

MOST of the toilets in coffee-shops that I patronised are filthy, with the flush and taps not working, and without toilet paper. Some toilet seats were broken.

We have been talking about the state of these toilets for more than 10 years but nothing seems to have changed.

We are tops in many areas but not where toilets are concerned. It is time we rectify this anomaly once and for all.

*Tan Thian Poh*