

15/01/2003

Let's learn the clean toilet habit

By Susai Anthony Muthu

THE cleanliness, or lack of it, of our public toilets has had everyone talking. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself has expressed concern, and many a tourist has sung the praises of the country, only to end with a recommendation that we seriously review our toilet habits.

The reason for the deplorable state of our public toilets and, heaven help us, perhaps a few in some homes as well, is quite simple.

There is a distinct lack of hygiene among many of us. Add to it our tidak apa attitude and you have a recipe for the disastrous conditions we are faced with.

During the just ended school holidays, I happened to ask my nephew about the condition of the toilets in his school in Kajang.

He said it was so deplorable that he would pray that he never had to answer the call of nature while at school. He added that the school authorities had even brought in a cleaning agency which charged 20 sen per entry - but apart from the additional burden of having to pay to use, there was no other change.

I guess this has a lot to do with ignorance of hygiene, personal and otherwise. We cannot depend too much on parents, as often many are themselves ignorant, too busy earning a living to engage in a discourse on the steps to cleaner toilets.

That leaves us with the schools, where our children spend a big part of their day. We need to instil good habits in our children so that they will grow up as responsible adults.

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