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That drug link is not a great secret

IT is perhaps understandable that Tan Sri Lee Lam Thee should come up with a simplistic solution to the problem of snatch thieves ("Snatch thieves and the drug connection" — NST, Dec 15).

This is because, as is generally known, he has either directly or indirectly been associated with non-governmental organisations' drug

rehabilitation programmes in a semi-executive capacity for at least a decade, where even "profiles" of hard-core drug addicts have yet to be provided, let alone effective rehabilitation.

Moreover, if Lee had been doing his research, he would have realised that some of us have had for some time now drawn attention to the possible

wider link not only between drug addiction and snatch thefts but to other social ills such as HIV/AIDS as well.

Indeed, the importance and need for radical and comprehensive structural (institutional) reforms from the bottom up to address and provide remedies is crucial, considering that statistics indicate rapidly increasing numbers of

victims of social ills across the board.

While Lee is to be commended for his concern over this as well as other social issues, with respect, it might be more useful if Lee could also work with other social activists in the area.

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