While Ng’s intention was good, his move clearly ended up being “多此一舉” (duo1 ci3 yi4 ju3).

“多” (duo1) means “plenty” or “excess,” “surplus,” “此” (ci3) “this,” “一” (yi4) “one,” and “舉” (ju3) is “to raise,” “to life” or “an action,” “behavior.” Literally, “多此一舉” (duo1 ci3 yi4 ju3) is “excess this one action.” It means “to make an unnecessary move.”

When someone does something clearly unnecessary, like washing bowls and plates that are to be put in the dishwasher, or sticking a stamp on a postage prepaid envelop, you can say: “This is really 多此一舉 (duo1 ci3 yi4 ju3).” – “This is really unnecessary.”

Terms containing the character “舉” (ju3) include:

- 舉動 (ju3 dong4) – a move, an act
- 舉行 (ju3 xing2) – to hold (a meeting, conference etc.)
- 舉例 (ju3 li4) – to give an example
- 選舉 (xuan3 ju3) – an election