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Huge turnout at 5km race for charity

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Photo by SHAHRUL FAZRY

MOST of the 1,800 participants had never ran a 5km race before but they proved that it was *mou man tai* (no problem in the Cantonese dialect) for them if they could help make someone's life better.

The catchy phrase *mou man tai*, has been Tom, Dick and Harry's motto since the restaurant started operations in 2009 and it has slowly spread among customers.

When the neighbourhood outlet in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur decided to organise a run last month themed *Mou Man Tai Life Night Run*, many of its customers jumped at the opportunity.



Running for fun: Some 2,000 participants put on their running shoes for Tom, Dick and Harry's biggest community run to date.

However, the seventh edition of the run had a twist as Tom, Dick and Harry's partner Ernest Ong revealed that for every successful participant, RM10 will be donated to the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF).

On the day of the run, participants came as early as 4pm in hopes of getting the limited-edition running vests which the eatery had been publicising on its Facebook fan page.

Avid runner Lesley Tan said the pub's free flow of drinks after the run had always been a motivation for her to sign up as she felt it was a great "reward" after any run.

"This run is special, you don't have to worry about coming back last or racing to be the first.

"Everyone is here to have fun, help a charitable cause, make new friends and have a drink after it all ends," said Tan.

Zhariff Afandi said he found out about the run from his friends who were very supportive of the restaurant's friendly effort for charity.

Colleagues Koo Yet Fong and Jasmine Chew, who came with five other friends, said it was their first time running together in such an event.

"We usually meet up for dinner or drinks after work but participating in something like this is actually fun too," said Koo.

Some participants also came with their furry friends in tow as the pub is a pet-friendly outlet.

The 5km route took participants through parts of Taman Tun Dr Ismail as well as a quick round in the park before returning to the restaurant on Lorong Rahim Kajai 14.

Beside cold drinks, hot dogs and burgers greeted runners when they crossed the finish line alongside a host of local musicians who were performing on stage.

After tallying the collection, a cheque of RM18,000 was handed over to representatives from the MAF recently.

According to MAF, the contribution would be used to assist in the organisation's work in enabling underprivileged Malaysians living with HIV to access second-line medication aimed at prolonging and improving their quality of life.

To-date, about 59 people living with HIV are on the programme, which is largely funded by MAF.