

In the face of challenges



Inspiration: Syahrain and Gan posing for a photo together, which Gan later posted on social media. — Pic courtesy of Edmund Gan

Two youths undeterred by physical and financial limitations

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PETALING JAYA: Two resolute youths, one faced with a physical challenge and the other monetary, refused to let hardship break their spirits during the movement control order (MCO).

Despite losing both hands in a bomb explosion when he was just nine years old, GrabFood rider Syed Mohd Syahrain Syed Fadzil did not let his physical limitations stop him from making an honest living.

A Facebook post uploaded by a customer, Edmund Gan, on his May 1 encounter with Syahrain, in which Gan expressed his amazement at the rider's ability, went viral.

"I was surprised that the post went viral and after that, people messaged me on Facebook and Instagram to express their admiration for my spirit," said the 26-year-old.

Syahrain said he got to talking with Gan when he delivered the latter's bubble tea orders and had to ask Gan for help to take the beverages out of his delivery bag.

"The staff put the drinks in a box because they ran out of plastic and it was hard for me to lift the box, so I had to ask the customer to take them.

"When he came out, we started talking for about 10 minutes and he asked how I managed to ride a motorcycle with no hands.

"He even took a picture with me," Syahrain told *mStar*, the Bahasa Malaysia news portal of Star Media Group.

He said that he was used to it as many customers would usually ask him the same question but he was grateful that they understood his situation.

Syahrain, from Kampung Merbau Indah, Sungai Buloh, said he lost his hands when he was playing near the Sungai Buloh Prison and had unknowingly picked up a bomb,

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which then exploded.

"My hands were damaged and the doctor had to amputate them," said Syahrain.

Syahrain's story as a delivery rider was previously published by *mStar* two years ago.

Meanwhile, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) student Yazid Rahman, 23, was devastated when his cafe, which he opened at his university just two weeks before the MCO, had to stop operating on March 18.

Taking to Twitter, Yazid's thread of posts regarding his journey from starting the business on March 1 to his current situation under the MCO had received over 1,000 "retweets".

Yazid, who started the business with his mother as head cook, assisted by two other staff members, was crestfallen during the MCO especially when he could no longer pay his staff daily wages.

"My house is in Bandar Baru Bangi and my mother also did a small-scale catering business.

"So when the tender opened up to run a cafe at my university, we jumped at the opportunity.

"Who knew that we would have to close just two weeks after opening," said the human resource development student.

Yazid's family had been doing business for 25 years selling stationery and food, while Yazid sold football shoes online since he was 15 years old.

To recover from his cafe's losses during the MCO, Yazid recently started taking online food orders to deliver around Bangi and Kajang while his mother made kuih.

Yazid's cafe serves ayam penyot, chicken



Entrepreneur:

Yazid (inset) serving food at his cafe before the MCO was implemented.



rice and nasi kukus ayam berempah (spiced chicken with steamed rice) as well as nasi ayam kicap khas PKP (special MCO rice with soy sauce chicken).

"I wanted to help my family. My father told me that we need to sacrifice when we are young and the youthful period is for struggling," said Yazid.