

*Shahell
&
Rozihad*









Akad Nikah
22 Oct 2022





Kenduri di ACS Stepping Stone
27 Nov 2022





































































8 Nation

Disabled couple finally married

It's a long 17-year wait to get the blessings from both sides of family

By K. KASTURI DEVI
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GEORGE TOWN: It took them 17 years before they could wed their love, but the long wait was all worthwhile for disabled couple Rozihah Yahaya and Md Shahell Md Yusoff. They finally did the deed on the wedding stage here today at the Shopping Stone Centre in Batu Puteh.

The couple had to wait a full year to get the blessing from both sides of the family for their union.

Md Shahell, 41, who works at the centre's bakery specialising in bread and pineapple rolls, has low visual impairment and cognitive disability while Rozihah, 51, is an artisan known for her regular display at the centre run by the non-profit community service since 2006.

On the day of their wedding ceremony, Rozihah and Md Shahell were seated at the centre over the weekend. Md Shahell said they started out at Batu Puteh before he moved.

"From friendship, it developed into love. I just happened."

"When I proposed to her and she agreed, I was the happiest man," he said.

Rozihah said she was happy that both their families finally gave their consent and blessing.

"We did not want to get married without both our families' blessing and until then, we waited."

"Now, I am so happy, excited and looking forward to spending happy

"When I proposed to her and she agreed, I was the happiest man."
Md Shahell Md Yusoff

days with Shahell," said the radiant bride on the day.

Centre chief executive officer Khair Al-Na said the couple's wedding ceremony (akad nikah) was held on Oct 22.

"Together with our staff and volunteers from Germany, the United States and Japan, we wanted to host this joyful event for Md Shahell and Rozihah as both of them have been with us for several years now."

"This is possibly the first ever known love marriage between persons who have cognitive/learning disabilities in Malaysia."

"We hope that this wedding will create a positive impression that despite their challenges, people with intellectual disabilities do have feelings and emotions. They can love and be loved," said Khair.

"And that they have the right to relationships and marriage."

Management was even cheaper as Daud Gillian Teh.

"Some, I am so happy, excited and looking forward to spending happy

days with her husband, Liza Robinson, 40, said it was her first Malay wedding experience.

"It is my first time in Malaysia and I am volunteering here for eight weeks before leaving on Feb 5."

"It is really sweet to see Shahell and Rozihah sealing their 17-year love and they have every right to be happy, like all of us," she said.

Alkermann also said she appreciated the support and love shown by the local community for the couple.

"I also love to see how the day and the decorations were all put together, including the matching wedding tresses," she said.

The couple arrived at the centre for the ceremony on a bicycle ride led by Md Shahell as they usually come to work on their bikes.

Guests, family members, staff of the centre and volunteers also lined both sides of the entrance to the centre to greet the couple.

Later, the couple and guests were treated to a sitat performance before enjoying a feast, which included nasi minyak, chicken curry, vegetables, egg gravy, laksa and traditional Malay kuih.

The centre is a workplace for persons with intellectual disabilities and also a support centre for community living.

Members are involved in creative arts work such as batik painting, tie and dye, handloom weaving, pottery, soap and paper making, and recycling activities. They also run a small bakery.



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Harsh months to come

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Worth the wait for love to win

When friendship developed into love for disabled couple Rozihah Yahaya and Md Shahell Md Yusoff they had to wait 17 years before they finally got married. Find out why it took them so long on page 8.



Photo: LIM GENG TATT/The Star

8 Nation

THE STAR, WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2022

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GEORGE TOWN: It took them 17 years before they could wed their love, but the long wait was all worthwhile for disabled couple Rozihah Yahaya and Md Shahell Md Yusoff when they finally tied the knot at the Shopping Stone Centre in Batu Puteh.

The couple had to wait a full year to get the blessing from both sides of the family for their union.

Md Shahell, 41, who works at the centre's bakery specialising in bread and pineapple rolls, has low visual impairment and cognitive disability while Rozihah, 51, is an artisan weaver with cognitive disability at the centre run by the Asia Community Service since 2008.

On the day of their wedding ceremony, Rozihah and Md Shahell were seated at the centre over the weekend. Md Shahell said they started out as friends before love blossomed.

"From friendship, it developed into love. It just happened."

"When I proposed to her and she agreed, I was the happiest man," he said.

Rozihah said she was happy that both their families finally gave their consent and blessing.

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"We hope that this wedding will create a positive impression that despite their challenges, people with intellectual disabilities do have feelings and emotions. They can love and be loved," said Khair.

"And that they have the right to relationships and marriage."

Also present was centre chairperson Daud Gillian Teh.

German volunteer Jana Alkermann, 34, who attended the

ceremony with her husband Lutz Hofmann, 60, said it was her first Malay wedding experience.

"It is my first time in Malaysia and I am volunteering here for eight weeks before leaving on Feb 5."

"It is really sweet to see Shahell and Rozihah sealing their 17-year love and they have every right to be happy, like all of us," she said.

Alkermann also said she appreciated the support and love shown by the local community for the couple.

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Journey in life: Md Shahell Md Yusoff and Rozihah Yahaya at their wedding ceremony at the Shopping Stone Centre in Batu Puteh. — LIM GENG TATT/The Star



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