

REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER WHILE
PROPOSING A TOAST AT THE WEDDING
RECEPTION OF ENCIK H. S. A. AZMAN AND
CIK ELINA MAE KUOK AT NIRWANA ROOM,
HOTEL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR ON 31ST
MARCH, 1974

Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are gathered here today for a very important and a solemn event—to wish these two young people who are about to embark on the most exciting journey of their lifetime. I am referring to Encik H. S. A. Azman and his radiant and charming bride, Elina Mae Kuok.

For me personally, today's event has a very special significance. Only two years ago, the bride's father—Tan Sri Philip Kuok or Phil as he is known among us—had asked me to toast the bride's elder sister on the occasion of her wedding. We are all glad to know that the happy union has been blessed as both Phil and his dear wife Eileen have since this past year been elevated to the venerable status of Grandpa and Grandma. Both of them, I am sure, are immensely proud of their achievement.

Coming back to our happy couple, by some coincidence, I discover that both of them have something in common with me. Mae, like her elder sister, is a trained lawyer, and like myself, she has opted out of the profession—not necessarily for the same reason—after a brief spell as a law Librarian at the University of Malaya.

Azman, we all know, is a national personality and a household word in tennis circles—a game I was very fond of before the advent of golf (and possibly age). I was a little surprised to learn that Azman has given up the game and his title after discovering the vast potentials of the batik industry.

Perhaps I am a bit to be blamed myself for this, if indeed Azman took me seriously when I advocated that more young Malays should take up to business in consonance with our programme in restructuring society. Knowing how successful the two Kuok Brothers are in everything they touch, I am sure the new

member of the family will be a useful asset to their growing empire. I am all the more happy that Azman is the second Bumiputra in the distinguished family.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is quite usual on an occasion such as this to say a few words of advice to the young couple. My two decades of experience makes me all the more sympathetic to my fellowmen although I know well that the ladies—particularly the PERTAMA group—will brand me a male chauvinist. In any case, I must remind the Groom that his agility on the court has no relevance whatsoever; he must give more than due justice to his new role as head of the house (though not necessarily the master of it).

Talking from experience, and, as any married couple can testify, matrimonial life is indeed an exciting and interesting experience. While it may not be altogether that "sweet and honey" (even the tongue gets bitten by the teeth sometime, says the Malay proverb), nevertheless if there is understanding and the spirit of give and take, one will never regret in plunging into it. As a matter of fact, it makes life really worth living. Of course, in the course of going through it, many unexpected things happen off and on that tends to make one over-react towards another. But, believe me, it fades as quickly as it arises. Married people will surely agree with me that these "tit-bits" do add to the spice of married life.

Talking about "tit-bits" or "interesting episodes" in married life, reminds me of a few anecdotes that I came across in a book.

There was this young couple who have been happily married for a few years—not for them the quarrel and boredom that often beset man and wife. But one morning at breakfast she was cross and irritable.

"What's the trouble?" he asked.

At first, she refused to tell, but she finally turned to him with tears in her eyes and sobbed: "If I ever dream again that you kissed another woman, I'll never speak to you as long as I live."

Another one which is interesting is this:

A woman, a decided redhead—decided about everything—married a tall and taciturn soldier, everyone said he would soon be the world's most henpecked husband. Instead, she behaved

from the start like a child the week before Christmas. She was asked how it happened.

Blushing, she said, "The first thing I saw after he carried me across the threshold was a pair of his trousers thrown over a chair. I started to put them away, but he stopped me. "Put them on," he said.

"But, darling, what for?" she protested. He just smiled. So, to find out what he had in mind, she put them on. They were about six sizes too big.

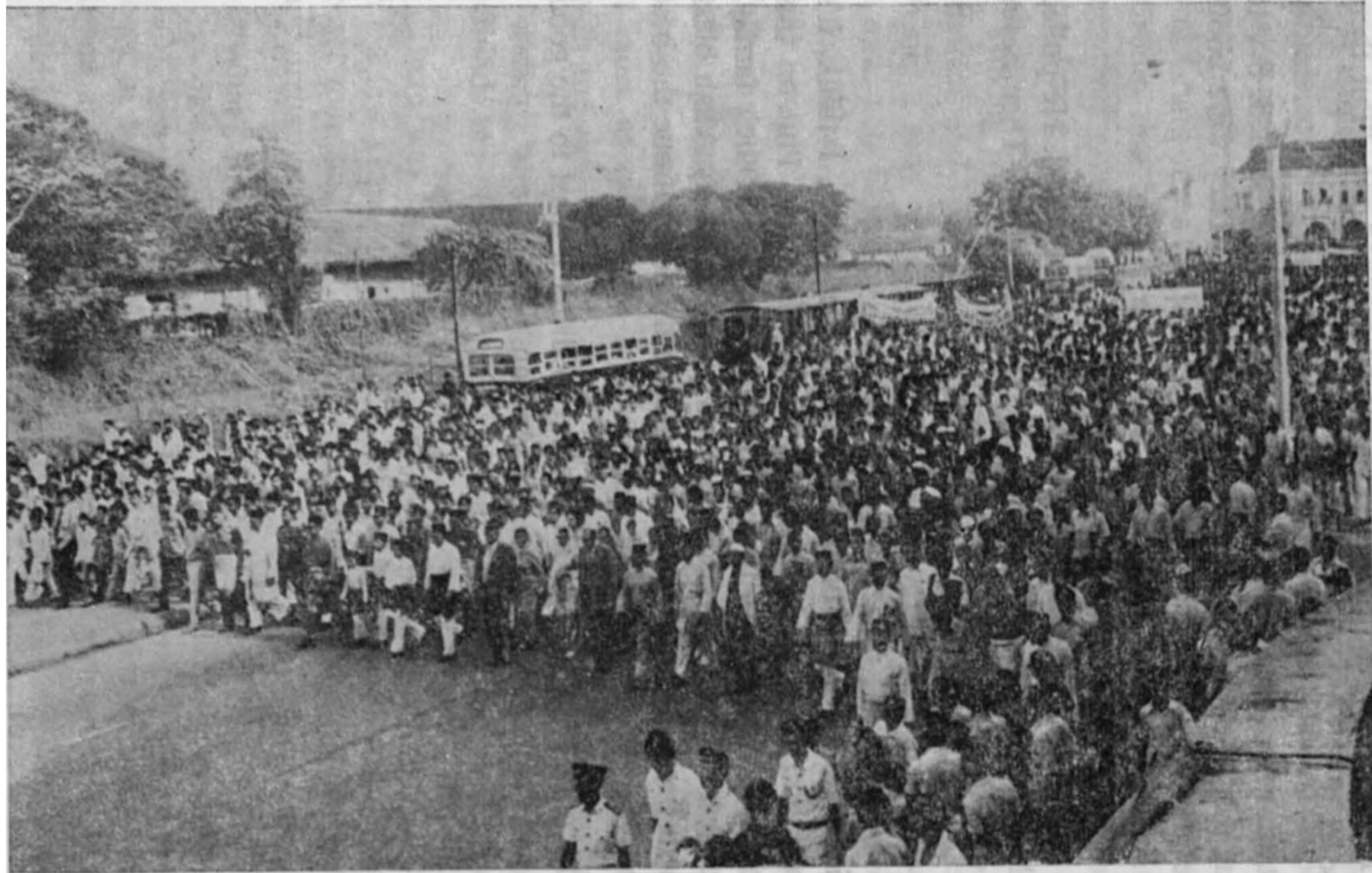
"Do they fit?" he asked.

Oh! sweetheart, you know they don't," she answered. He pulled me to his knees and said his face perfectly dead plan, "Then never forget who wears the pants in this family!"

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Having said so much of the bride and the groom, I think, it's only fair that we should all congratulate Eileen and Phil on this moment of joy for both of them and other members of their family. My heartiest congratulations to the newly-wed and may Allah bless them with beautiful children who will inherit and continue the best traditions of our multi-racial nation.

On the note, may I invite all present to drink a toast to the good health and happiness of Mae and Azman.



Tun Abdul Razak bin Datuk Hussein mengetuai perarakan kerana menyambut Hari Keputeraan Nabi Mohamad S.A.W. di Kuala Lumpur pada 5hb April, 1974.

(Gambar Jabatan Penerangan Malaysia)