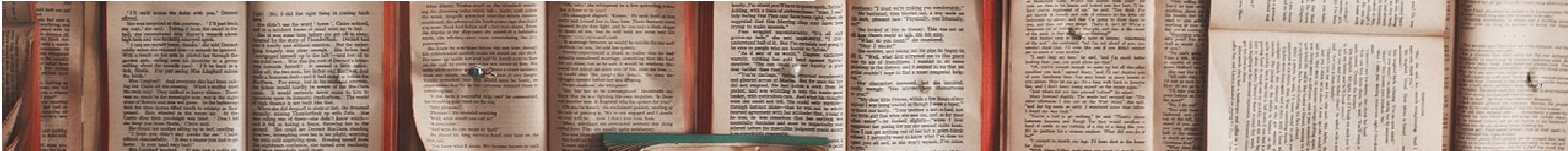
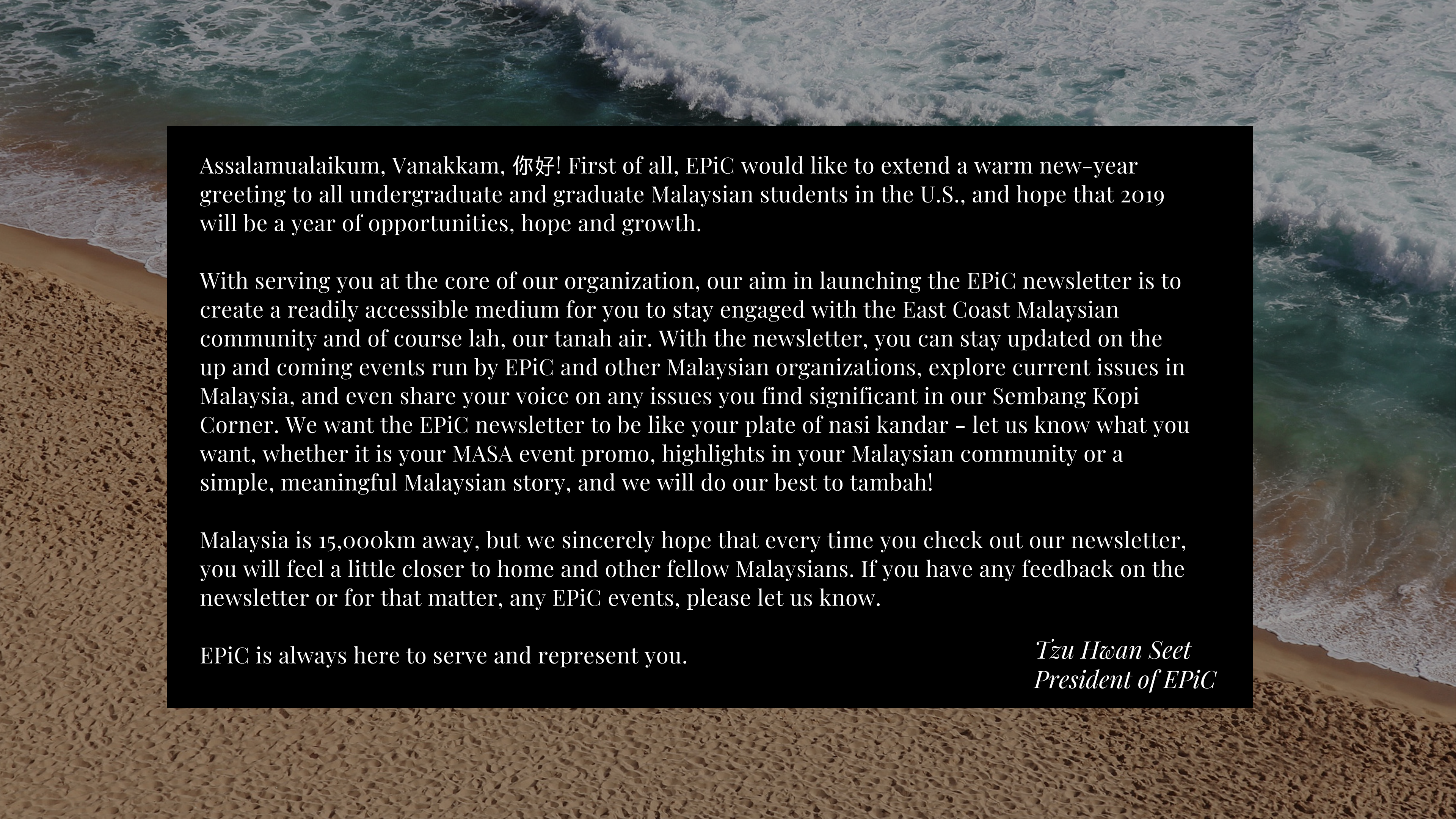


# EPiC x Change

*Your Home Aways from Home*



An aerial photograph of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The water is a deep blue-green, and the sand is a light tan color. The waves are white with foam as they break. The entire image is framed by a dark, semi-transparent black rectangle that contains the text.

Assalamualaikum, Vanakkam, 你好! First of all, EPiC would like to extend a warm new-year greeting to all undergraduate and graduate Malaysian students in the U.S., and hope that 2019 will be a year of opportunities, hope and growth.

With serving you at the core of our organization, our aim in launching the EPiC newsletter is to create a readily accessible medium for you to stay engaged with the East Coast Malaysian community and of course lah, our tanah air. With the newsletter, you can stay updated on the up and coming events run by EPiC and other Malaysian organizations, explore current issues in Malaysia, and even share your voice on any issues you find significant in our Sembang Kopi Corner. We want the EPiC newsletter to be like your plate of nasi kandar – let us know what you want, whether it is your MASA event promo, highlights in your Malaysian community or a simple, meaningful Malaysian story, and we will do our best to tambah!

Malaysia is 15,000km away, but we sincerely hope that every time you check out our newsletter, you will feel a little closer to home and other fellow Malaysians. If you have any feedback on the newsletter or for that matter, any EPiC events, please let us know.

EPiC is always here to serve and represent you.

*Tzu Hwan Seet*  
*President of EPiC*

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

*From the US East Coast Presidential Council*





## Higher Minimum Wage Nationwide

Effective January 1 2019, the minimum wage nationwide — including Sabah and Sarawak — will be RM1,050 per month or RM5.05 per hour.

Employers and traders are also urged not to raise prices of goods and services following this minimum wage increase. The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) is tasked to monitor the matter.

## Fuel Subsidy

Under the 2019 Budget, owners of cars and motorcycles with 1,500 cc and 125cc engines will receive subsidies for RON95 petrol at 30 sen per litre. The subsidy for car owners will be limited to 100 litres of petrol monthly, while motorcycle owners will get 40 litres monthly.

The new system to carry out the targeted RON95 fuel subsidy is expected to be rolled out in stages by the second quarter of 2019, says Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister.





## No Smoking at All Eateries

Effective January 1 2019, the Ministry of Health announced that smoking in all restaurants, coffeeshops and hawker centres – even open-air eateries – nationwide would be banned starting 2019.

Those caught smoking in prohibited areas will be fined up to RM10,000 or face two years' jail while eateries found to have allowed customers to light up will be slapped with a maximum fine of RM2,500.

## Towards Plastic-Free

Plastic straws will be banned in all the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan from Jan 1, 2019.

Under the plan Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030, there will be no more drinking straws and plastic carrier bags by 2030, with local councils imposing a “pollution charge” and a “no straw by default” policy.

Industries are being urged to find an alternative to plastic straws.





## Exempted from Exams

Primary school pupils from Years One to Three will not be sitting for mid-year and final exams, starting from Jan 2019.

In the place of mid-year and final exams, continuous assessments will be implemented as part of the teaching and learning process through the Classroom-Based Assessment (PBD).

## Affordable Public Transportation

In the tabling of the 2019 Budget, the government announced the unlimited travel pass initiative with an allocation of RM240 million, which is in line with the current administration's move to boost public transport usage.

The My100 monthly travel pass can be purchased using the MyKad, MyKid or MyTentera, and covers all forms of RapidKL rail and road transport including MRT, LRT, Monorail, BRT, RapidKL buses and MRT feeder buses. There is also a My50 monthly pass priced at RM50, valid for RapidKL buses and MRT feeder buses.



# Be a Part of EPiC

As a sub-committee, you will have the opportunity to grow in various areas of event planning and team organisation with the EPiC team, as you get involved in different projects that allow you to build meaningful network.

If you have the passion and willingness to learn, we definitely encourage you to join us.

## Positions Available:

- Secretariat Committee
- Finance Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Relations Committee
- Media and Design Committee
- Social Outreach and Marketing Committee
- Newsletter Editors

For more information:  
[bit.ly/EPiC\\_SubComInfo](http://bit.ly/EPiC_SubComInfo)

To Apply:  
[bit.ly/EPiC\\_SubComForm](http://bit.ly/EPiC_SubComForm)



## JOM SEMBANG

Have any opinions or thoughts to share?

About Malaysia? The community? The economy? The world?

Or are you raising awareness on a cause?

On environmental sustainability? Mental health?

Human rights violation in different parts of the world?

Or even a story that inspires?

Here at Sembang Kopi Corner, we celebrate the importance of expressing opinions. We believe there is power in words.

Submit your writings to us at [ecprescouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ecprescouncil@gmail.com)

If appropriate, not only will the article be published, you will also stand a chance to receive a gift as a courtesy from us.

So let your thoughts be heard. **Write away.**



# Stay Updated



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