

Headline	Are you ready to be inspired		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Women's Weekly		
Date	03 Nov 2011	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	31,221
Page No	32	Readership	52,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	196 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,583
Frequency	Monthly	PR Value	RM 4,749



LET'S TALK



Are you ready to be inspired?

One of the favourite parts of my job is receiving letters from you. Recently a reader, Cynthia Samad wrote to me about a young lady she'd met named Katrina, who'd inspired her with her never-give-up attitude towards life. I was moved by Katrina's story: she grew up poor, so she waited tables and cleaned toilets to make ends meet, all while pursuing a degree in psychology on a partial scholarship. After completing her studies, she decided to work with underprivileged and marginalised people, as a volunteer with the Malaysian Aids Council and with Tenaganita as a trainer for migrant workers.

Katrina's story was inspiring – but at the same time I was also thrilled by the genuine admiration Cynthia had for her, and how that chance meeting changed her own life. Cynthia wrote in her letter, "I hope that by sharing Katrina's story, you will find her life as interesting and as inspiring as I did."

It's readers like Cynthia who first gave us the idea of launching *The Weekly's* Great Women of Our Time Awards in 2007 – which is all about women inspiring other women. The awards programme celebrates the achievements of Malaysian women who are trailblazing their way to the top of their industries, putting Malaysia on the map with their unique talents and skills, and contributing to the community in a profound way.

Our hope for the Great Women of Our Time Awards then, as it is now, is that these amazing women will inspire your *own* lives. Vote for your favourite nominees in this year's awards, on page 53. We know their stories will touch your hearts the same way it did ours. Have a great month!

Elaine
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