

## **FOREWORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL - 1996 ESS Reunion**

I am gratified for the opportunity to salute all the old Eastleigh Secondary School students through this historic publication and to congratulate the organisers and participants at the first ever ESS International re-union. There are no words to clearly describe the practical sense of belonging that you have displayed. The entire current fraternity of Eastleigh High School received indeed the information about the re-union with great enthusiasm and pride.

### **BRIEF BACKGROUND HISTORY**

Eastleigh Secondary School was founded in 1952 under the name 'NEW ASIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL' to cater for the education of the Asian Community. It was originally built for the Pangani Parklands area. With the ensuing increase in demand for education, it was decided that the New Asian Secondary School be moved to a new site in Eastleigh area. Construction work for this new school was finalised in 1956 and on 6th October 1956, the then Director of Education Mr. W.J.D. Wadley formally opened it under a new name of Eastleigh Secondary School.

As recently as in 1981, the school remained an 'O' level five stream institution. In 1981, the then Ministry of Higher Education granted 'A' level status to the school (Form 5 and 6). On 14th September 1983, at the school's Annual Speech & Prize Giving day, the Permanent secretary - Ministry of Education formally changed the school's name from Eastleigh Secondary School to Eastleigh High School (EHS).

### **EASTLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL TODAY**

With the introduction of the 8: 4: 4 system of education and the emphasis on cost sharing for the financing of education in the country, the school has undergone several changes. The Government has continued its support in provision of the teaching staff while the parents have been expected to provide for the physical facilities and equipment necessary in their school. As a result, the parents completed the construction of a school library and staff room block in 1994. The parents have however been unable to equip the library with books that are relevant to the new system of education due to financial constraints.

The school today is a multi-racial school with 850 students and a teaching staff of 54. It offers a wide and varied curriculum, which includes pure sciences, metalwork technology, woodwork technology, principles of agriculture, mathematics, languages, religion and other social sciences and humanities. The performance in national exams is however below the expected standards. This has been as result of the financial inability of the parents to provide for the required facilities. Most of the parents are residents of the surrounding Mathare and Eastlands slum areas and are financially handicapped to the extent they cannot afford the minimum fees required and have to rely on bursaries from the Government and well-wishers. The once beautiful school now lacks lighting due to constant vandalism; the fencing is poor while the roofs leak. Parents have long wished to have a kitchen and

dining hall facility at the school to ensure that every student takes lunch at school but this is still an idea that will take long to implement.

However, the picture is not all bleak. The school spirit still exists particularly in sports. The school has produced notable personalities in sports in the recent past and continues to do so. Some of the names of the ex-EHS pupils are: -

1. Steve Tikololo is a Kenya International cricketer is currently playing semi-professional cricket in South Africa.
2. Allan Odhiambo, Bassanga Otieno and Richard Asabe represent the Harambee Stars soccer team
3. Peter Mbogo has played in the National volleyball team
4. Walter Njau, currently in Form 4, has represented Nairobi Province in table tennis for 4 years.
5. Barry Ndinya is the current champion in Lawn Tennis and has participated in various amateur tournaments
6. Hassan Dabasso is the current Nairobi Lawn Tennis champion
7. Martin Otieno and Stephen Odhiambo were participants in the National Athletics Championships in 1996

### **CONCLUSION**

It is my conviction that if this spirit is rekindled in all spheres of Eastleigh High School, we can together keep the fire burning and continue to be proud of this institution. You are indeed a product of this school. Do not be ashamed of what it is today but please take this challenge and decide what should be done to regain its past glory. ASHANTENI SANA.

J. R. MADANGUDA  
PRINCIPAL