
English Teacher Society Est 1974

2025 Lenz 70th ✦



ETS CURRENT LOGO

Ad- Hoc Formation of the Association

The English Teachers Society was initially known as the Transvaal Speech Association. The formation of the association was the brainchild of great visionaries of the likes of Messrs Billy Morgan, Mr Essop Tagari, Yusuf Eshack, Ahmed Essop, later Mr Ebrahim Seedat and much later Mr Jakes Vandeyar who served in an advisory capacity. These committed individuals gradually drew in a band of younger educators from Lenz High and Nirvana High to assist them. Lenasia secondary was then a hive of activity for the association activities under the astute leadership of Mr Billy Morgan, a loosely structured association conducted adhoc talks on aspects of the English curriculum aimed mainly at high school classes focusing on poetry and plays.

Current Executive Members

A. Lalloo, Chairperson (Zodiac), P Govender (Lotus), R. Rangan, Treasurer (Park), U Pillay (Flamingo), F. Mahomed, Secretary (Model), Z Kathrada (LMS), A Sader (Al- Aqsa x5), F Essack (Pentarosa)

Objectives of the Association

The idea of such an association was borne out of a need to enhance skills in public speaking debates, plays and poems. Indirectly, it hoped, that the literacy skills would be developed. The association operated outside of the parameters of the then custodians of Indian education, the apartheid structure, House of Delegates.



MR ESSOP TAGARI

Growth and expansion

The association imposed upon itself the ardent task of expanding outside of its base Lenasia. Teams visited schools in Roshni, Azadville, Johannesburg, Eldorado Park, Lenasia South, Ennerdale, Pretoria and Benoni, often over weekends. Their aim was to encourage schools in these areas to participate in the associations programs. These ventures were undertaken on personal time and finances. For a few years schools from these areas travelled to Lenasia for specifically the speech contests. Enthusiasm for the programs soon diminished largely due to transport, time and financial constraints. In Lenasia, however the programmes gathered much momentum. Competitions were staged annually.



Speech adjudicators

Sameera Bemath, Saleha Ismail, Naseema Moolla, Farhana Mahomed, Faeza Vally, Rabia Amod, Sonia Pillay, Tasneem Tagari, Rukshana Rasool, Firdous Shah, Nabila Moola, Shameema Vally, Fatima Fadal, Firdaus Seedat.



Book Quiz pannel

Saleha Ismail, Khatija Surtee, Rabia Amod, Feroza Ebrahim, Faeza Motala, Azraa Khota, Sharifa Moola, Shakira Khota.



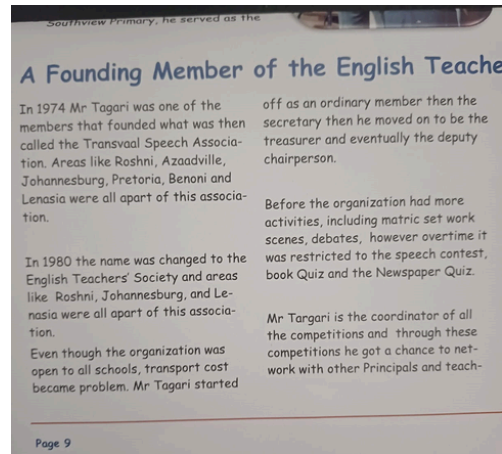
LATE MR NELSON MANDELA &
THE LATE MR E TAGARI

Matric literature

Later, Mr Billy Morgan, whose name is synonymous with this structure, organised workshops on methods of teaching literature. Educators were trained on the analysis of genres such as novels, dramas, short stories and poetry. Materials for these workshops were prepared by the association. To strengthen the program, matric learners were invited to enact scenes from Shakespearian plays. The Wits Shakespearian society was invited to Lenasia to deliver lectures on the author's works. This was all done to generate a love for Shakespeare and prepare matrics adequately for their exams. Parallel to this initiative, the association drew in expertise from Wits University to adjudicate its speech contests. Also, there were a number of enduring collaborations with teachers and lecturers linked to the then White Transvaal Department of Education. These specialists, along with the Lenz grouping, led after hours sessions for matriculants in prefab classrooms in the art of dramas and comedies and the analysis of texts and poems. The teachers of the time took on this work with immense pride and diligence and a genuine passion for teaching and making a difference in the lives of secondary school students.

Debates

In 1978 the association expanded its programs into the realm of debates. Educators were workshopped on the skills and procedures relating to debates. These educators then established debating teams in their respective schools. The motive was to conscientize young minds through debates on social and political issues impacting on the broader society and develop critical thinking. Inter school debating competitions were staged between secondary schools.



ARTICLE ON MR TAGARI

New era

Around 2010, many of the older guard retired from the profession. Mr Morgan, as a retired educator, continued to chair the ETS. True to his legacy of developing educators, he trained a completely new group to take on executive roles. Of the current executive of 8 members, three were trained by him they are F Mohamed, R Rangan and A. Lalloo.

Period 2021 to 2025

In this period the young executive made huge strides. The constitution was amended to suit the times, certificates were designed specifically for each event, a pool of adjudicators and quiz panels was put into place. Panelists were drawn in from secondary schools, speech and dramas guilds as well as the retired corps. Events were moved to Saturday mornings in order to avoid disruptions in curriculum delivery. A council was formed with a delegate representing each affiliate school.

Annual General meetings were brought forward to October of the preceding year. Budgets and reports are presented and affiliation fees determined. A 3-year plan is worked out indicating schools hosting each of the four events in the following year. The host schools were given an approximate indication of the cost to host so they could impact on the following years school budget. A plaque is presented to all host schools to remember the event. More recently an initiative to acknowledge educators who served the ETS longer than a decade was introduced. A programme for the year is adopted at the AGM. The selfless efforts of the executive, all women bar one, does not go unnoticed. While they are the backbone of their families, they are also the backbone of the ETS. Given the great responsibility each female member carries, meetings are held on Google at night to accommodate them, to broaden the interest of the general public in ETS events, a website was set up publicising the events and displaying photos and videos taken at these events, Workshops sharing best practices are conducted while the events take place In this way modern methods are presented to empower educators.

Newspaper Quiz

In 2008 a newspaper quiz was added to the existing competitions. Educators realised that learner general knowledge was not of the desired level. Through the news quiz it was envisaged that this void could be filled. Three categories were introduced, sports, local and international. A reading week from Monday to Friday in each February is identified. Schools then run internal competitions to identify their best learners in each category. In early March an inter- school competition involving 22 primary schools and 10 secondary schools are separately held. The quiz is restricted to Grade 7's in primary and Grade 9's in secondary schools. More recently the ETS is exploring the idea of utilising social media platforms since print newspaper prints is becoming obsolete.



CURRENT CERTIFICATES

SHEILDS SPONSORED FOR BOOK QUIZ - LATE MR MORGAN & LATE MRS RENGASAMY

Modernisation

In 1980 the adhoc group set on the path to modernise the association. Its first task was to rename the association to the English Teachers Society. It found it expedient to discard the word “Transvaal” from its name in anticipation of the changes in the country. Model Primary became its headquarters for the next 15 years. Model hosted the speech contest elimination rounds on a Monday and Tuesday from 12: 00 to 14:00 for primary schools and Wednesdays for secondary schools. All this while the school ran its normal timetable. A Saturday was set aside for the finals. Mr Essop Tagari as Principal of Model Primary persuaded staff members to assist with the logistics. The event was run for over a decade at Model. Around this time, the society organised itself into a well- oiled structure with a constitution, portfolios and a banking account. The introduction of the Star schools programme under William Smith had a negative impact on the secondary schools programme in Lenasia and soon saw its demise. Focus from then onwards was on speech contests, newspaper quizzes for both levels and book quizzes for primary schools only.



AWARDEES @ SPEECH CONTEST
2024



AWARDEES @ SPEECH CONTEST
2025



**MR MORGAN AS SENIOR
MANAGEMENT @ LENZ HIGH**

**English Teachers Society
Participating Schools
Primary Schools**

**AL- AQSA X1
AL- AQSA X5
AL – HUDA ACADEMY
ALPHA PRIMARY
CROSBY ACADEMIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL
FLAMINGO PRIMARY
GREYVILLE PRIMARY
HARMONY PRIMARY
IMPALA PRIMARY
LENASIA MODEL SCHOOL
LENASIA MUSLIM SCHOOL
LIBRA PRIMARY SCHOOL
LOTUS SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
NIZAMIYE PRIMARY SCHOOL-
MAYFAIR
NIZAMIYE PRIMARY SCHOOL-
MIDRAND
PARK PRIMARY
PENTAROSA PRIMARY
PROGRESS PRIMARY
QURTUBA ISLAMIC ACADEMY
REDWOOD PRIMARY (LENASIA)
REDWOOD PRIMARY (ORMONDE)
RIDGEWAY MUSLIM SCHOOL-
PRIMARY
SIERRA NEVADA PRIMARY
ZODIAC PRIMARY**



TROPHIES @ ETS NEWSPAPER QUIZ 2025

**English Teachers Society
Participating Schools
High Schools**

**LENASIA SECONDARY
LOTUS SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
NIZAMIYA MIDRAND
AL AQSA 10
LENASIA MUSLIM SCHOOL
QURTUBA ISLAMIC ACADEMY
REDWOOD (LENASIA)**

**English Teachers Society
Acknowledgements**

A special mention must be made of Stalwarts Mrs Fazila Mohamed and Mrs Rabia Amod. Both served the ETS specifically and education in general, with great distinction. Post retirement they continue to support ETS activities as panellists and adjudicators annually. They are saluted for their efforts. The current ETS executive are privileged to have Mr Morgan and Mr Tagari as mentors. As custodians of the ETS it is imperative that they nurture and grow the society more, as a representative of the learner population, persuading greater secondary school participation and establishing networks for educators to share best practices in the art of teaching English.

Thank you for reading!