



MINISTRY
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Funda Mzantsi 14th Championship Kicks Off with Enthusiasm

The 14th annual Funda Mzantsi Championship was met with resounding applause as it officially opened today in George, Western Cape. Minister of Correctional Services, Dr. Pieter Groenewald, presided over the ceremony, marking another exciting chapter in the event's history.

Funda Mzantsi provides a unique platform where inmates engage with community book clubs, schools, and universities without any barriers. Known for fostering a culture of reading, debate, and literary engagement across South Africa, this year's championship is once again highlighting the creativity and dedication of participants.

Minister Groenewald emphasized the need to expand Funda Mzantsi, involving more inmates and community members. "By working together, we can create a system where rehabilitation is not only a possibility but an achievable reality for all behind bars. Let us join hands and strengthen this sense of purpose," he urged.

Speakers also discussed how reading and comprehension serve as gateways to opportunity. Funda Mzantsi is not just about testing reading ability; it is about overcoming limited resources and expanding access to books. The goal is to make reading an enjoyable, inclusive, and transformative experience for all.

These sentiments were echoed by the CEO and National Librarian, Mr. Kepi Madumo, who praised the partners of Funda Mzantsi for their commitment to literature, curiosity, and lifelong learning. The championship draws participation from book clubs representing correctional centers (inmates), universities, schools, and communities.

National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Makgothi Thobakgale, captured the excitement for the week ahead, with the championship set to conclude on Friday, 27 September 2024. "Whether in a library, book club, or behind prison walls, books remind us of the endless possibilities of the human spirit. This championship celebrates those possibilities and demonstrates that no matter where we come from, we can always find common ground in the pages of a book," Thobakgale said.

Correctional facilities, schools, universities, and community book clubs have all embraced this journey of learning and self-improvement, addressing the national call to develop a stronger reading culture.

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