



# correctional services

Department:  
Correctional Services  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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02 October 2023

### **The 2023 Funda Mzantsi Championship in full motion**

The 13th Funda Mzantsi Championship kicked off at a high note in George as inmates wrestle to once again dominate the spectacle against community book clubs, university students and school-going learners.

Participants are assessed in four categories - impromptu reading, debating, spelling bee and book reviewing. Making his first appearance representing the Gauteng Region is Siphso Ndlovu doing debate and book reading.

Funda Mzantsi is not a competition to see who can read the most books in the shortest time. Instead, it is a celebration of the dedication and passion that readers bring to each and every page they turn. As a result, this programme champions the importance of critical thinking, empathy, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Correctional Services understand that books have the power to spark change, to inspire movements, and to shape the course of history. Over 290 inmates participating as part of this year's Championship to read, not just for their own pleasure, but also to foster a more informed, compassionate, and connected society.

The programme further equips inmates with the best possible opportunity for a second chance in life, the ability to make better choices and be more discerning citizens.

Funda Mzantsi started on Monday, 02 October and will run until 06 October 2023, where winners will be announced. It is a week where lovers of literature promise to inspire others, affirming themselves as champions of the written word.

**ENDS**

Singabakho Nxumalo: 079 523 5794 <a href="mailto:Singabakho.Nxumalo@dcs.gov.za">Singabakho.Nxumalo@dcs.gov.za</a>	Logan Maistry: 083 644 4050 <a href="mailto:Logan.Maistry1@dcs.gov.za">Logan.Maistry1@dcs.gov.za</a>
Call Centre: 0860 000 327 // <a href="mailto:enquiry.complaints@dcs.gov.za">enquiry.complaints@dcs.gov.za</a>	