

## COMMENT

**A**rts and Culture Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi criss-crossed the country last week telling South Africans about the importance of reading. “The importance of reading in order to achieve success in life is foundational for the individual and essential for nation building and social cohesion,” said Mabudafhasi as the country marked the National Book Week.

She said the department’s Mzansi Golden Economy (MGE) strategy recognises the power of the book sector to contribute to job creation, poverty reduction, skills development and, above all, economic growth.

“The National Book Week is a strategic intervention to promote a reading culture that will enhance the prominence and socio-economic impacts of the South African book sector both locally and globally,” Mabudafhasi said.

With the striking reality that only 14% of South Africans read books and half the country doesn’t own a single leisure book in their home. The campaign #buyabook was born to curb that. Speaking with glee, South African Book Development Council CEO Elitha Van Der Sandt said, “We are very excited about this one. We have partnered with Exclusive Books and Bargain Books so that from 7th-20th September, selected books will be sold for R20. Please buy a book, not for yourself but for someone who doesn’t own one.”

Director General of Basic Education Mathanzima Mveli added to the change of the countries reading pattern saying.

“We need civil society to support what schools are doing. We have to go beyond to get the nation reading. That’s why every year, the department delivers 1 000 libraries to schools.”

**N**ineteen departments and public entities of the Gauteng Provincial Government have achieved clean audit status for the 2014/15 financial year.

Furthermore, no unauthorised expenditure was incurred by the province during this period, said Premier David Makhura when he revealed the findings of the Auditor-General’s Report.

Makhura said the results are an indication that Gauteng is well on track towards achieving its goal of establishing credible financial control systems.

“The Auditor General’s report shows that our province is increasingly making good in managing its finances,” he said.

The premier said the implementation of firm action plans has helped to strengthen financial management in some departments that have achieved clean audits.

He also attributes the success to the continuously improving financial management capacity and practices; taking corrective action to tackle poor performance and a strong political will to build a culture of accountability and excellence.

The departments that achieved clean audits include the Office of the Premier, Legislature, Treasury, Social Development, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Finance and Economic Development.

The public entities include Dinokeng, Gauteng Film Commission, Gautrain Management Agency, Gauteng Partnership Fund, IDZ Development Company, Constitutional Hill Precinct, Innovation Hub, Greater Newtown Development Company, the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, Tourism Authority, Gambling Board and Supplier Park Development Company.