**“Books must become priority gifts, not chocolates,” says Ms. Bongiwe Mbinqo Gigaba, MEC Sport, Arts and Culture in the Northern Cape**

*Kimberley, South Africa* (08 Sept. 2016) -- Day 4 of National Book Week filled the William Humphreys Art Gallery in Kimberley with an energetic line-up of activities, which ranged from storytelling sessions by Kwesukela and a slam poetry and hip hop session by Hitman CEO, which proved to be a hit amongst learners from local schools.

It wasn’t until the MEC of Sport, Arts and Culture’s visit that the adrenalin filled the room.

MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba took a tour of the facilities, sitting in on some of the National Book Week activities taking place. She spent some time with the Early Childhood Development (ECD) learners and read excerpts from a storybook to them before heading to the gallery hall for the unveiling of the Sol Plaatje bust.

“We take immense pride that the Northern Cape has now become part of National Book Week for the very first time and we have created several programs that will hone in on literacy and reading, such as the programme for budding writers,”

She went on to urge the audience to go out there and #BUY\_A\_BOOK so that books can be made available to people who are less fortunate.

With September 8th being International Literacy Day, it is also fitting that the Northern Cape commemorates 100 years of the Sol Plaatje book: “Native Life in South Africa” and that National Book Week was there to celebrate this momentous occasion.

National Book Week runs from 05-11 September and is celebrated across all nine provinces. It is a reading campaign aimed to encourage more South Africans to become readers of books and to get more books into South African homes.

Up until the 18 September, National Book Week has made books available for R20 at the following retailers: Bargain Books, Exclusive Books and Takealot.com

A reading nation is a leading nation!

Visit: [www.sabookcouncil.co.za](http://www.sabookcouncil.co.za) for more information on National Book Week.

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