**PRESS RELEASE**

Hatch launches it’s *A Re Baleng* book drive

***07 November 2012:*** *Consulting engineering and project implementation firm Hatch has embarked on a book drive project, named A Re Baleng, which will see the firm collect educational books and construct container libraries for various rural communities across South Africa. This is a partnership between Hatch and a non-profit organisation called Girls of Hope, which is aimed at empowering children and young women in the rural areas of Limpopo through education.*

The *A Re Baleng* book drive project, which was officially launched at the Hatch Woodmead premises on Mandela Day on 18 July 2012, saw Hatch employees donate more than 2 500 books appropriate for the age of 7 to 18 years on topics ranging from literature and technology to business, accounting and science. Additional books were collected from Rotary Club, with the promise of a continued supply as deemed necessary.

*A Re Baleng* book drive coordinator and founder of Girls of Hope **Julia Phala** says that the next phase of the project will be to deliver the books to pre-selected rural schools in the Limpopo Province, the first of which will be Dikgalaopeng Primary School at Dikgalaopeng Village after necessary steps have been followed. The storage of the books, whether it be on bookshelves in existing premises or in new premises, will be provided by Hatch.

Phala points out that the inspiration behind the launch of the *A Re Baleng* book drive came from a quote by World Read-Aloud Day founder **Pam Allyn:** “The greatest gift we can give a child, is an environment that will nurture a love for reading and writing that will last a lifetime.”

 Phala says that education is fundamental to uplifting and empowering rural youth across the country. “We believe that the *A Re Baleng* book drive, supported by Hatch’s Corporate Social Investment Committee, will become a very necessary and sustainable endeavor,” concludes Phala.

***Ends.***

**Notes to the Editor**
There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click on the Hatch link.

**About Hatch**
Hatch supplies process and business consulting, information technology, engineering, and project and construction management to the mining, metallurgical, energy and infrastructure industries.

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