**PRESS RELEASE**

Melco expands its Eight to Twelve for Life scholarship programme

***07 February, 2013:*** *Internationally-recognised conveyor equipment manufacturer Melco continues to display its commitment towards being a socially responsible corporate citizen, after recently expanding its scholarship programme, which involves the sponsorship of all costs related to school and extra mural activities for underprivileged girls in the local community.*

As part of its Eight to Twelve for Life scholarship programme, Melco initially paid all expenses including; school fees, extra mural activities, cost of daily transport to and from school, and all school books and stationery for six high school learners, who were selected on merit from the top achievers at Ekurhuleni Primary School, which is situated within the Dukathole informal settlement adjacent to Melco. They started attending Germiston High School in 2011, and all six learners completed their first two years of high school successfully.

These girls are in Grade 10 now, and have achieved excellent academic results, after being given full access to Melco’s offices and internet facilities for project and study purposes, whilebeing provided with extra tutoring when necessary. Due to the overwhelming success of the first six girls, Melco has decided to extend the initiative by sponsoring a further six new girls who were top achievers at Ekurhuleni Primary School, and who started Grade 8 at Germiston High School this year.

Melco managing director **Gavin Hall** highlights the fact that the company recently purchased a minivan, to take the girls to and from school, and to all their extra mural activities, which include karate, rowing and basketball. "The minibus makes it far easier to transport the girls safely, which is paramount to Melco, and in comfort," he explains.

What's more, Melco sales and marketing director **Craig Warmback** adds that the company donated a gift voucher of significant value to each of the girls' families in December 2012, in order to help brighten up their festive season. "All employees at Melco have grown very fond of these girls, who really have risen above their own circumstances, and have become affectionately referred to as 'Melco's Children'. With this in mind, we are committed to doing everything we can to help them reach their full potential."

Hall points out that Melco will continue with this worthy cause, by looking at expanding the scholarship programme in the future. "We want to help as many high school learners as we possibly can through our Eight to Twelve for Life programme. We are already discussing with the Grade 10 girls what careers they may wish to pursue after high school, and Melco will assist them to achieve their dreams. We also plan to assist Dukathole Primary School in laying grass on its fields, which are currently bare. In addition to its scholarship programme, Melco also donates monthly groceries to the Bambanani Home Based Care Centre and Crèche, also situated in the Dukathole informal settlement, which cares for elderly vulnerable people and AIDS orphans," he concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the editor**
There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit [http://media.ngage.co.za](http://media.ngage.co.za/) and click the Melco link.

**About Melco**Melco is one of Africa’s major conveyor equipment manufacturers. Melco has been a proud member of the Rulmeca Group of Companiessince 2006. Melco idlers have been successfully utilised in many bulk materials handling applications in over 75 countries throughout the world, and installed on belt widths from 200mm to 3000mm. The Melco product range is comprehensive, comprising steel rollers ranging from 89mm to 215mm in diameter, with bearing and shaft arrangements from 25mm to 60mm diameter, HDPE rollers, idler frames and underground structure, and Rulmeca Motorised Pulleys.

**Melco Contacts**
Gavin Hall

Managing Director

Phone: 087 806 3160

Email: gavinh@melco.co.za

Web: [www.melcoconveyors.com](http://www.melcoconveyors.com)

Craig Warmback

Sales and Marketing Director

Phone: 011 255 1600

Email: craigw@melco.co.za

Web: [www.melcoconveyors.com](http://www.melcoconveyors.com)

**Media Contact**Ryan Collyer
NGAGE Public Relations
Phone: (011) 867-7763
Fax: 086 512 3352
Cell: 072 377 5000
Email: ryan@ngage.co.za
Web: [www.ngage.co.za](http://www.ngage.co.za/)