

New accommodation units for students

REPORTER

STUDENT housing solutions for up to 144 tertiary learners attending the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University during 2016 will be available in Port Elizabeth from January next year.

In a first for the city, 144 new rooms will be on offer in modern, easy living, vibrant accommodation units specifically developed with a focus on interaction between students.

Project construction management giant, Integrated Solutions, was appointed by CampusKey to oversee the management of the entire development that will further enhance the area as one of the most popular South African university cities that attract both national and interna-

tional students annually.

CampusKey has taken student accommodation to the next level nationally with CampusKey properties providing a community feel where students can enjoy a superb lifestyle with the best rooms, study areas and social spaces.

Evert Lategan, Managing Director of Integrated Solutions, says that the accommodation on offer in PE will not only be conveniently close to the university with its location in Summerstrand, but despite its ultra-modern design, units will be very affordable at between R3 450 to R4 500 per month per student.

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande released a report in 2012 that revealed the inadequate accommodation that SA universities provide for many of its stu-

dents. The report stated that more than 300 000 beds for students were needed nationally to attain the necessary provision – yet only 108 000 beds were provided in 2010 (the year in which the report's primary data was compiled).

The study also found that only 5,3% of first-year students (those arguably in greatest need of accommodation) were in residences. The researchers visited all 22 residential universities and their 50 campuses in total in order to obtain the necessary statistics.

Lategan says that the CampusKey apartments they are working on will include kitchens, Wi-Fi, fully furnished bedroom units, as well as high security with fingerprint access to the building and 24-hour monitoring.

Furthermore, students can also look forward to gymnasiums, entertainment areas, laundry

facilities, ample parking and bicycle sheds. "Security is of utmost importance," stresses Lategan.

"Besides the security at the entrances, primary fencing, as well as fencing at all individual blocks, each room will also have its own security fingerprint access lock. This will be the latest technology available. CCTV cameras will also monitor movement at all fences, as well as to public areas, ensuring that safety always comes first."

Apart from the current project in Port Elizabeth, Integrated Solutions and CampusKey are also presently working on similar student housing solutions in Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Hatfield and Potchefstroom, with more to be undertaken during 2016 to provide an additional 1000 beds in the future.