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STUDENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR BLOEMFONTEIN

NEW ACCOMMODATION UNITS IN BLOEMFONTEIN DEVELOPED WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Student housing solutions for tertiary learners attending the The University of the Free State during 2016 will be available in Bloemfontein from December 2015. 156 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 international 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 Bloemfontein will not only be conveniently close to the university, but despite its ultra-modern design, units will be very affordable at between R3250 to R4175 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 students. 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."

He further adds that finishes for the apartments were selected to be both functional and aesthetically pleasing, with a look and feel that will be vibrant, yet relaxing – allowing students to study and focus on the task at hand. "CampusKey has been developing for the last four years and have gained valuable feedback on what works and what can be changed to work better. Due to Integrated Solutions' background and expertise in the hospitality sector, we

were able to advise on minor changes that will reduce long term maintenance, reduce risk of flooding in rooms and bathrooms as well as specify finishes that will perform better over time," he says.

Commenting on why Integrated Solutions was entrusted with the development, Lategan states: "It must have something to do with the fact that we finish on time with a consistently high quality standard and within predetermined budgets. We have worked with Mark Mouton of CampusKey before and we were delighted when he called us first to ask if we would be able to assist with the development."

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