



# 2nd Annual Harmonizing Student Accommodation Conference

24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>

April 2025

Radisson Blu Hotel,

LUSAKA

Sustainable, Smart, and Inclusive  
Solutions for 2025 and Beyond.”

**Call for paper presentations to be submitted  
by 31 March 2025 email to:  
[nancy.tembo@premierknowledge.co.za](mailto:nancy.tembo@premierknowledge.co.za)**

We are thrilled to have you join us for this exciting two-day event, themed “Innovating Student Living: Sustainable, Smart, and Inclusive Solutions for 2025 and Beyond.” As we look towards the future, this conference aims to explore the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in student accommodation.

Over the two days, we will delve into key topics such as sustainability, smart technology, student wellbeing, and community building. Our program features insightful keynote addresses, interactive panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration and inspire new ideas.

Whether you are an industry professional, academic, student, or simply passionate about the future of student housing, this conference offers a unique platform to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and build lasting connections.

## Conference Overview

Implementing smart technology in student accommodation comes with several challenges:

- **High Initial Costs:** The upfront investment for smart technology can be significant. This includes the cost of devices, installation, and integration with existing systems.
- **Data Privacy & Security:** Ensuring the privacy and security of student data is crucial. Smart devices collect a lot of data, and protecting this information from breaches is a major concern.
- **Technical Issues & Maintenance:** Smart technology can be prone to technical glitches and requires regular maintenance. Ensuring that there is adequate support for troubleshooting and repairs is essential.
- **Digital Literacy:** Not all students may be familiar with using smart technology. Providing adequate training and support to help students use these systems effectively is important.
- **Integration with Existing Infrastructure:** Retrofitting smart technology into older buildings can be challenging and costly.

Ensuring compatibility with existing infrastructure is a key consideration.

- **Dependence on Internet Connectivity:** Smart devices rely heavily on stable internet connections. In areas with poor connectivity, this can be a significant barrier.
- **User Acceptance:** Some students may be resistant to adopting new technologies, especially if they perceive them as intrusive or unnecessary.
- **Scalability:** Implementing smart technology on a large scale can be complex. Ensuring that the systems can scale effectively to accommodate a large number of users is important.
- **Technical Complexity:** Energy-efficient systems often involve advanced technologies that can be complex to install and maintain. This requires skilled labor and ongoing technical support.
- **Financing and Incentives:** Securing financing for energy-efficient projects can be difficult. While there are incentives and rebates available, navigating these programs can be complex and time-consuming.

- **Regulatory and Policy Barriers:** Inconsistent regulations and policies across different regions can hinder the implementation of energy-efficient systems. Compliance with varying standards can be challenging for organizations operating in multiple locations.
- **Consumer Awareness and Engagement:** There is often a lack of awareness and understanding among consumers about the benefits of energy-efficient systems. Engaging and educating consumers to adopt these technologies is crucial.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** Retrofitting older buildings with new energy-efficient systems can be challenging. Ensuring compatibility and seamless integration with existing infrastructure is a key concern.
- **Performance Measurement and Verification:** Accurately measuring and verifying the performance of energy-efficient systems can be difficult. This is essential to ensure that the expected energy savings are being realized.
- **Market Fragmentation:** The market for energy-efficient technologies is highly fragmented, with numerous products and solutions available. This can make it difficult for consumers to choose the best options for their needs.

Despite these challenges, the benefits of smart technology in enhancing the student living experience and improving operational efficiency make it a worthwhile investment.

Here are some successful examples of smart technology implementation in student accommodation:

- **Unilodge Australia:** They have integrated StarRez resident and property management solutions to enhance staff efficiency and student engagement. This includes an

automated booking engine, financial reporting functions, and resident engagement tracking.

- **Monash University:** Their student accommodations feature smart spaces designed for productivity and seamless living. This includes smart thermostats, lighting systems, and security cameras, all controlled remotely to ensure comfort, convenience, and safety.
- **UniAcco:** They have implemented various smart technologies in their student housing, such as smart locks for keyless entry, video intercom systems for enhanced security, high-speed Wi-Fi, smart thermostats for energy efficiency, and customizable smart lighting.

These examples highlight how smart technology can significantly improve the living experience for students by enhancing security, convenience, and energy efficiency.

Implementing energy-efficient systems can be quite challenging due to several factors:

## Latest Trends:

The latest trends in student accommodation for 2025 and beyond are quite exciting and reflect broader societal shifts and evolving student preferences. Here are some key trends:

- **Sustainability & Green Housing:** There's a growing emphasis on eco-friendly and sustainable housing solutions. This includes energy-efficient buildings, use of renewable energy sources, and sustainable materials.
- **Integrating Smart Technology:** Smart technology is becoming a staple in student housing. This includes smart locks, energy management systems, and mobile apps for maintenance requests and package deliveries.

- **Flexible Housing Options:** Students are looking for more flexible housing arrangements that can adapt to their changing needs. This includes mixed-use developments that combine living, learning, and social spaces.
  - **Student Wellbeing & Mental Health:** There is an increased focus on student wellbeing, with accommodations offering mental health support services and wellness programs.
  - **Community Building & Diverse Social Spaces:** Creating a sense of community is crucial. Student housing is incorporating more communal spaces and activities to foster social interaction and inclusivity.
  - **Interest in Mixed-Use Properties:** Mixed-use properties that combine residential, commercial, and recreational spaces are becoming more popular.
  - **Limited Supply Growth:** Despite the high demand, the supply of student housing is growing at a slower pace, leading to increased competition for available spaces.
  - **Rebound in Planning Applications:** There has been a significant rebound in planning applications for new student housing projects, indicating a positive outlook for future developments.
  - **Strong Rental Growth:** Rental rates for student housing are expected to continue rising due to the high demand and limited supply.
  - **Positive Investor Interest:** The student housing market remains attractive to investors, with continued strong interest and investment in this sector.
- Despite these challenges, the long-term benefits of energy-efficient systems, such as cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and improved sustainability, make them a worthwhile investment.
- **Education and Awareness Campaigns:** Inform students about the importance of energy conservation through workshops, seminars, and informational materials. Highlight the environmental and financial benefits of energy-saving practices.
  - **Incentive Programs:** Offer incentives such as discounts, rewards, or recognition for students who actively participate in energy-saving initiatives. Competitions between dorms or student groups can also motivate participation.
  - **Student Involvement in Planning:** Involve students in the planning and implementation of energy-saving projects. This can include forming student committees or clubs focused on sustainability.
  - **Use of Technology:** Implement apps or platforms that allow students to track their energy usage and see the impact of their efforts in real-time. Gamifying the process can make it more engaging.
  - **Visible Results:** Share the results of energy-saving initiatives with the student body. Showing tangible outcomes, such as reduced energy bills or carbon footprint, can reinforce the importance of their participation.
  - **Sustainable Living Spaces:** Design dormitories and common areas with energy-efficient systems and provide tips on how students can contribute to energy savings in their daily routines.
  - **Collaborative Projects:** Partner with student organizations, local businesses, and environmental groups to create larger community projects focused on sustainability.
  - **Feedback Mechanisms:** Create channels



for students to provide feedback and suggestions on energy-saving initiatives. This can help tailor programs to better meet their needs and preferences.

- **Role Models and Ambassadors:** Appoint student ambassadors or role models who are passionate about sustainability to lead by example and inspire their peers.
- **Integration into Curriculum:** Incorporate sustainability and energy conservation topics into the curriculum. This can help students understand the broader context and importance of their actions.

By making energy-saving initiatives a collaborative and rewarding experience, universities can foster a culture of sustainability among students.

## Who Should Attend:

Here's a list of who should attend the 2nd Annual Student Accommodation Conference and why:

### University Administrators and Housing Officers

**Why:** Gain insights into the latest trends and innovations in student accommodation, and learn best practices for managing and improving student housing facilities.

### Sustainability and Environmental Experts

**Why:** Share knowledge on sustainable building practices and learn about new technologies and strategies for creating eco-friendly student housing.

### Technology Providers and Smart Tech Innovators

**Why:** Showcase cutting-edge smart technologies that can enhance student living experiences and network with potential clients and partners.

### Architects and Urban Planners

**Why:** Explore innovative design solutions for student accommodation and collaborate on projects that integrate sustainability and smart technology.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing Professionals

**Why:** Discuss the importance of mental health support in student housing and share strategies for creating supportive living environments.

### Investors and Real Estate Developers

**Why:** Identify investment opportunities in the student housing market and understand the financial models that drive successful projects.

### Student Representatives and Leaders

**Why:** Provide valuable insights into student needs and preferences, and participate in discussions on how to improve student living conditions.

### Policy Makers and Regulators

**Why:** Understand the regulatory landscape and collaborate on policies that support sustainable and inclusive student housing.

### Facility Managers and Maintenance Staff

**Why:** Learn about new technologies and practices that can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of housing management and maintenance.

### Academic Researchers and Educators

**Why:** Share research findings related to student accommodation and engage in interdisciplinary discussions on the future of student housing.

# “Innovating Student Living: Sustainable, Smart, and Inclusive Solutions for 2025 and Beyond”

## DAY 1

### Morning Session

#### 08:00 - 09:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks and Registration

*Introduction by the host (Premier Knowledge) and The Chairperson.  
Overview of the conference theme and objectives*

#### 09:00 – 09:45 Keynote Address

*Topic: “The Future of Student Accommodation: Trends and Predictions for 2025 and Beyond”*

*Speaker: Industry expert or academic leader*

#### 10:00 – 10:30 Tea break

#### 10:30 – 11:30 Panel Discussion

*Topic: “Sustainability in Student Housing: Challenges and Opportunities”*

*Panelists: Sustainability experts, architects, and university representatives*

### Afternoon Session

#### 11:00-13:00 Breakout Sessions

*Session 1: “Smart Technology in Student Accommodation”*

*Session 2: “Designing Inclusive and Accessible Student Housing”*

*Session 3: “Financial Models for Sustainable Student Housing Projects”*

#### 13:00 – 14:00 Networking Lunch

*Opportunity for attendees to connect and discuss morning sessions*

#### 14:00 – 15:00 Workshops

*Workshop 1: “Implementing Green Building Practices”*

*Workshop 2: “Leveraging Data for Enhanced Student Experience”*

*Workshop 3: “Community Building in Student Housing”*

#### 15:00 – 15:15 Afternoon tea break and snacks

#### 15:15 – 16:00 Case Study Presentations

*Successful examples of innovative student accommodation projects.*

*Q&A session with project leaders*

## END OF DAY 1

# Speakers on Board

## **David Chama Kaluba** National Determined Contribution (NDC) In-Country Facilitator for Zambia. **In the Ministry of Green Economy**



**David Chama  
Kaluba**

David Chama Kaluba is currently serving as Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) In-Country Facilitator for Zambia, in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. Previously, David has served as Climate Adaptation Expert in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, as National Coordinator for the Interim Climate Change Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance and National Planning. He led the resource mobilization efforts that enabled Zambia access over US\$100 million in grants and concessional financing for climate adaptation projects in Zambia. At the International level, David served on the PPCR Sub-Committee representing African pilot countries including co-chairing the Strategic Climate Fund and the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience Sub-Committees and the Joint Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) and Clean Technology Fund Committee (CTF) under the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Other roles have included Advisor to a member on the Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). He was subsequently elected on the Board Member of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) representing Least Developed Countries. Most recently, David served as Advisor to a member on the Transitional Committee for the design of the Governing Instrument of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. He was elected as one of the three representatives of the African

## **Kelly Kalumba** ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSIONAL Green Code Architects **Director**



**Kelly Kalumba**

Kelly Kalumba is a Zambian Registered Architectural professional with Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA) with a Degree in Architecture. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Green Code Architects. He has served a Past President of ZIA (2016-19) and served on ZIA committees as chairperson. He has also done training programs for the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development and their stakeholders. An expert in design, construction management and supervision for almost thirty (30) years, he has been a Senior Partner (Louis Karol Architects) in charge of Johannesburg office and projects on the African continent and the United Kingdom (1998 to 2016). His notable experience has led him to design, manage and coordinate a great number of multi-million dollar hospitality, commercial, corporate, industrial, health, educational and residential projects across a number of African countries as well as in Europe.

# Speakers on Board



**Hon.  
Joe Kamoko**

Permanent Secretary  
**Technical Support**  
Ministry of Education Zambia  
**Guest of Honor**



# REGISTRATION FORM

## 2nd Annual Harmonizing Student Accommodation Conference

24<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka



NGAWA PREMIER CONSULTING  
AND INVESTMENTS LIMITED

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### PRICING:

#### Registration Fee

**R 7 999 - per person**

**excl. VAT**

**R 3 999 Students excl**

**Vat**

To Register Contact: 010 541 0291 / 078 847 4022 / [info@premierknowledge.co.za](mailto:info@premierknowledge.co.za)

### Terms & conditions:

**Delegate cancellations:** By completing this registration form, the client hereby agrees that Premier Knowledge will not be able to mitigate its losses for any less than 50% of the total contract value. Cancellations must be received in writing three weeks prior to the event. Only cancellation made in writing and addressed for the attention of the Chief Financial Officer will be recognised by Premier Knowledge. Cash alternatives will not be offered through delegate substitutions are welcome any time. Thereafter, the full workshop, we are not responsible for covering air fare, hotel or other costs incurred by registrants. In the event that Premier Knowledge cancel the event, Premier Knowledge reserve the right to transfer this booking to another workshop held in the following six months, or to provide a credit of an equivalent amount to another workshop in the same sector within the following six months.

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Kindly tick on which country bank account off your choice below;



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Bank Name: First National Bank (FNB)  
Account Number: 62360259123  
Branch Name: Bedford Gardens  
Branch Code: 250 455  
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ950



Zambia

#### Banking Details:

Account Name: Ngawa Premier Consulting and Investment Limited  
Account Number (ZMW): 63125810291  
Account Number (USD): 63125811679  
Branch Name: Commercial  
Branch Code: 260001  
Swift Code: FIRNZMLX

### Authorisation:

By completing and signing this form, the authorised signatory accepts the Terms & Conditions stated on this registration form

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_