

**C**ommerce and industry have a vested interest in the education system of the country, said Mr Robin Plumbridge, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Gold Fields, when he officially opened the Gold Fields Complex at the University.

In his opinion it was of paramount importance that tertiary education should become even more privatised than at present. It had been estimated that this sector spent between R3 billion and R4 billion annually on education in South Africa.

"In our changing environment South African universities have had to recognise the fact that the financial contribution which the central government can make in the future will continue to decline rapidly in proportional terms. Likewise, where the State previously had exclusive control over education, there now exists a subtle interplay between State, private sector, staff, students and their sponsors."

Mr Plumbridge said the new residential complex was an example of how corporate funding provided for an urgent need which had been identified on the Stellenbosch campus.

"Gold Fields believes that in order to produce dynamic leaders, the student should not only be exposed to the academic environment, but should also be placed amongst his or her peer group and involved in university life as a whole."

He saw a university residence as the fundamental unit where the individual's full interaction with his or her social environment took place, causing a ripple effect which could only be of advantage to the university and the community as a whole.

## Leader

"Stellenbosch University recognised this aspect of education many years ago and today the University is the proportionate leader amongst all South African universities in providing essential residential accommodation for its students."

Mr Plumbridge said "Stellenbosch is one of the great open universities in South Africa. Understandably many of the students and their parents have conservative backgrounds. Nevertheless it is notable that the University, in the best enlightened tradition, has achieved considerable success in integrating all population groups into the student body."

The Gold Fields complex would not only alleviate the general accommodation crisis on campus, but also provide the catalyst for a truly non-discriminatory residential environment at the University.

He promised that, "once the ideal of the Gold Fields complex as an intellectual melting pot is fully realised, we will be willing to assist in financing an extension to the current complex." □

# Tertiary education 'must be even more privatised'



Resident students and other invited guests at the official opening of the new complex.



'n Hele uitgawe van die Tydskrif vir Volkskunde en Volkstaal is onlangs aan prof. Bun Booyens (regs), afgetrede hoof van die Departement Afrikaanse Kultuurgeskiedenis, opgedra. Hy ontvang hier 'n eksemplaar van dié uitgawe van prof. Pieter Grobbelaar, huidige departementshoof en ook die voorsitter van die Genootskap vir Volkskunde.

Met die huidige uitgawe is prof. Booyens se 70ste verjaardag herdenk. Elke artikel daarin is deur een van prof. Booyens se oud-studente geskryf.