

Thumbs-up for Varsity football

By CHARLES BALOYI

SOUTH African Football Association (Safa) CEO Dennis Mumble has given the Varsity Football tournament the thumbs-up as it celebrates its fifth year of existence.

And this year it promises to be even bigger and better.

Speaking at the launch at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) yesterday, Mumble said Safa was 100% behind this football initiative and that they would send local football coaches to use it to scout for players.

Mumble said Varsity Football was part of Safa's Vision 2020 and he hoped it would keep growing into a formidable development tool.

Said Mumble: "It's a great football initiative and Safa is behind it all the way. We have thrown our weight behind this concept and will also play a part to make sure that this year's tournament is an overwhelming success. We want to see more universities take part – and it would be great to see more women taking part too."

The eagerly awaited tournament, to be televised on SuperSport 10 every Thursday night, will kick off on 27 July. Tshwane University of Technology will be defending their crown against seven other universities.

They defeated UJ 2-1 in last year's grand finale in Tshwane.

In addition to UJ and TUT, the other teams taking part are University of Pretoria, North West University, Central University of Technology, Wits University, University of Western Cape and University of Fort Hare.

The top four teams qualify for the semifinals, with the top two getting home advantage.

Tuks are the most successful team in the competition with two titles won in 2013 and 2014. University of Western Cape and TUT are the other teams to have won the competition.

TUT coach Bushy Moloi is confident his team will retain their title. Moloi's charges went through the mini league rounds unbeaten last year.

But Tuks are this year's favourites.

