



Varsity football rivalry to be renewed for local fans

Eliot Mahlase

Varsity cup holders Tshwane University of Technology and University of Pretoria will renew their rivalry in the annual football competition.

Varsity football is celebrating five years this year and is South Africa's premier inter-varsity football competition.

It is the leading platform for football development at university level, and has grown to be one

of the most supported football tournaments in the country, according to Varsity football manager Xhanti-Lomzi Nesi.

In 2016, more than 100 000 fans flocked to their local university stadiums to support their teams at the eight participating universities.

Even on the coldest nights, the atmosphere in the stadium is usually electric and warm, showing once again that sport has the ability to unite people.

"Since our competition is an

all-inclusive competition, we found that Thursday nights worked better for the student athletes and supporters' academic and social calendars, as well as our TV viewership," said Nesi.

Varsity football has also opened the doors for many young footballers, including Thabo Mnyamane, who now plays for SuperSport United and Bafana Bafana. Varsity football is sponsored by FNB, Samsung and Debonairs pizza.

