

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME

SPRINGBOK RUGBY



**SPRINGBOKS
V GEORGIA**

FIRST TEST
FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021
LOFTUS VERSFELD,
PRETORIA
19H00



asics



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SPRINGBOKS v GEORGIA



FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021 / LOFTUS VERSFELD, PRETORIA / 19H00

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pride and not a little relief that we welcome our friends from Georgia here in Gauteng today.

The journey to this point has been a long and complicated one; filled with scenario planning, COVID contingencies and great uncertainty. But it is a tribute to the spirit of rugby that the teams are on the field today, since they last met in 2003.

Unfortunately, the local Test season is not what we had looked forward to;

there is no sea of green in the stands to cheer our World Champion Springboks on for the first time since that wonderful day in Japan in November 2019, and the pleasure of sharing our unique country with our visitors has been severely restricted.

But, in the words of Rassie Erasmus let the main thing stay the main thing – and that is the meeting of might and mane on the rugby field.

Welcome to our friends from Georgia here in South Africa for a historic series. We honour and thank you for your determination to be here today. May this be the start of great things to come.

Mark Alexander
President, SA Rugby



Rassie Erasmus, Mark Alexander and Jacques Nienaber.



THE NEW SPRINGBOK 2021 SERIES JERSEY

GET YOURS NOW

#SoundMindSoundBody






TRAINING CAMP: Boks take Bloem by storm

After 18 months of no international action, the Springbok squad recently returned to training and held a camp in Bloemfontein, where they started preparations for the Test series against Georgia, and the Castle Lager Lions Series. We take a look at what transpired on the training field.










You do not have to
play Test rugby against
Georgia year in and year
out to know that the
Lelos are regarded as
some of the hardest men
in the world of rugby –
as the Springboks are
bound to find out.

GEORGIAN BATTLE WILL TEST



HAVING only met once before prior to the 2021 Test series – way back at the Rugby World Cup in 2003, when Schalk Burger made his Springbok debut and John Smit captained South Africa for the first time – Georgian rugby is somewhat of an unknown factor for the Springboks.

And although the Lelos are still relatively new on the Test stage, they have constantly featured at the Rugby World Cup since 2003, contesting all the tournaments since.

In 2019, Georgia comprehensively beat Uruguay 33-9 in their RWC pool game in Japan, and four years earlier, in England in 2015, the Lelos were too strong for Namibia (17-16) and Tonga (17-10).

Between the Rugby World Cups, in 2017, Georgia faced the USA and Canada in four Tests and won all of them, including a 54-22 drubbing of the Canucks in Tbilisi.

The Georgians – currently ranked 12th in the world, just below Fiji and higher than Tonga, Samoa and Italy – were due to tour South Africa in 2020, before the COVID-pandemic wreaked havoc with the season, but SA Rugby were quick to make another plan and get them over to South Africa for two Tests as the Springboks prepare for the Castle Lager Lions Series.

SPRINGBOKS' PHYSICALITY



“They are very physical, and their passion shows in their performances, and this is the kind of preparation we need going into the Lions series.”

**JACQUES NIENABER
SPRINGBOK COACH**

Georgia in action against Fiji at Murrayfield in Edinburgh during the Autumn Nations Cup in 2020.

animosity on the field in the two Tests, the facts are that SA Rugby and their Georgian counterparts have a growing friendship which extends to other teams as well.

Lasha Khurtsidze, the Georgian vice-president for High Performance and Development, lauded the cooperation between the rugby authorities in Georgia and South Africa.

“Playing against them is a great honor for us,” said Khurtsidze.

“We have only played the Springboks once before, in our first Rugby World Cup appearance in 2003, when we scored the first try. A lot of time has passed since then, they are the current world champions and we have developed as well.”

According to Khurtsidze, SA Rugby has over a number of years made an active contribution to the development of Georgian rugby.

“We appreciate the fact that we have a friendly and close relations with SA

“Nothing beats a full-blooded international to test your skill set, readiness and ability under pressure, and we are delighted to have this opportunity before the Lions series,” said Rassie Erasmus, Director of Rugby.

Jacques Nienaber, who will make his debut as Springbok head coach against the Lelos after being elevated to the position last year, knows it will be a proper baptism of fire and that a huge challenge lies ahead

“The Tests against the passionate Georgian team will be tough,” said Nienaber.

“They are very physical, and their passion shows in their performances, and this is the kind of preparation we need going into the Lions series.”

While there may be some form of



Official Global Partner to the Castle Lager Lions Series 2021

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We are proud to be an Official Global Partner to the Castle Lager Lions Series, protecting sport through these uncertain times. We are also the first ever Principal Partner of the Women's Lions Programme, enabling us to invest in the future of women's rugby. As Principal Partner we're establishing, together with the Lions, a study to investigate whether a Lions women's team can be formed.

Through our partnership, we're demonstrating our intention to make a positive change for women's rugby in the UK and Ireland, creating the potential opportunity to unite as one team in a Lions jersey.

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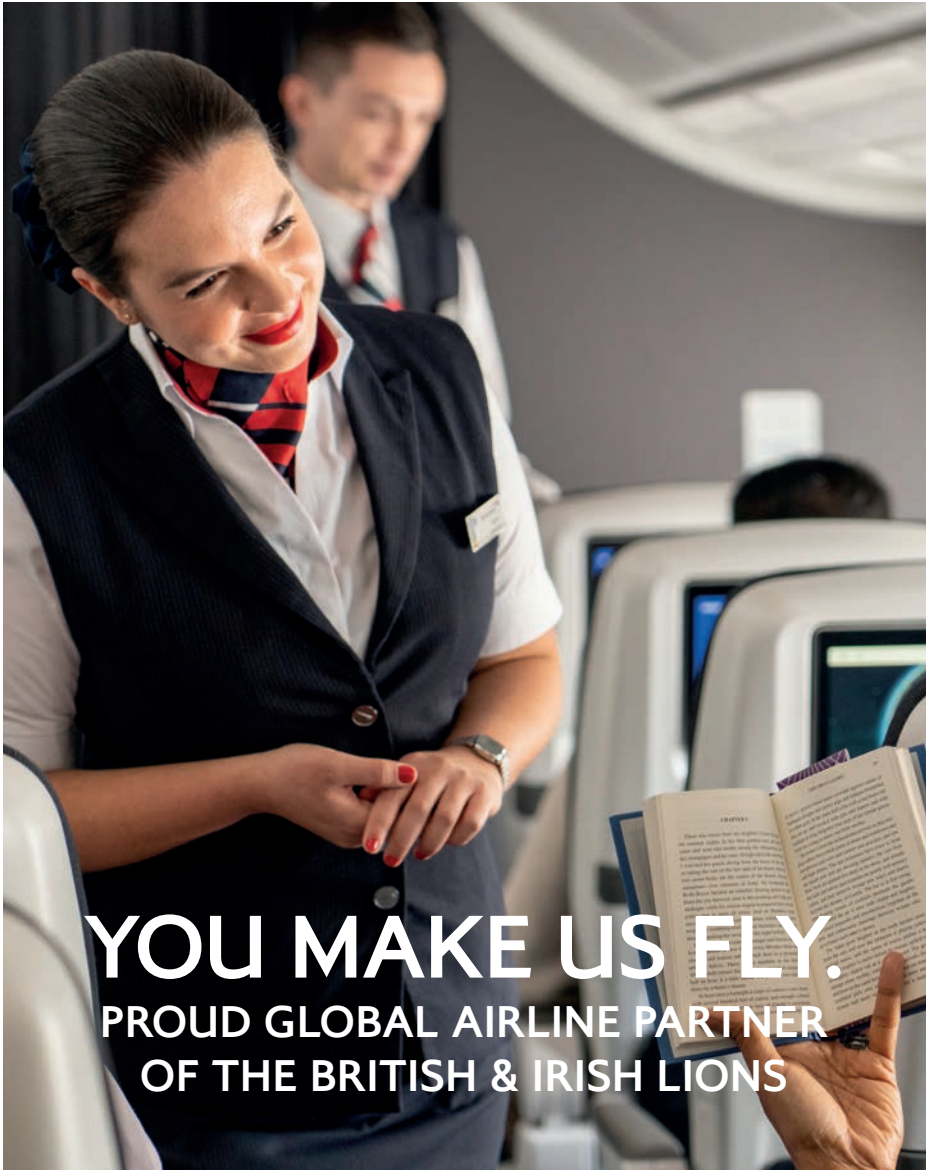
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Scarra Ntubeni gets past Kwagga Smith during a Springbok training session in Bloemfontein, with Frans Steyn in support.



Rugby. Our Under-20s recently played in a tough series in South Africa and have actually played in very high-level tournaments over there on numerous occasions. As a leading tier one rugby nation, this makes South Africa an important contributor to the development of Georgian rugby.”

Following the historic series in SA, Georgia is scheduled to host Scotland and Lelos head coach Levan Maisashvili said he considers the three successive Tests against Tier One nations as the best development opportunity for his team.

“The fact that the world champions intend to play two Test matches against us is a tribute to Georgian rugby and a serious challenge,” said Maisashvili.

“We will host Scotland after the series in SA, and so I think this is another amazing opportunity to help us in our development.”

The Boks prepared themselves during a

three-week camp in Bloemfontein, and the coaching staff are fully aware of the pitfalls and challenges that await their return to Test match rugby, with Deon Davids, who took over as forwards coach after the departure of Matt Proudfoot to England, looking to shape the powerful Bok engine room into an even bigger menace.

“The last few weeks have been important to lay the foundation in terms of what we want to achieve and to formulate the strategy we want to apply in the Georgia games as we progress into the Castle Lager Lions Series,” said Davids.

“We’ve been working very hard and the players have responded well on and off the field. We have tested different combinations and assessed the different areas of the game, and we have a good understanding of what we want to do against Georgia. The players cannot wait to take the field.”



SPRINGBOKS

Friday 2 July 2021 / 19h00 / Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria



Willie le Roux	15
Rosko Specman*	14
Jesse Kriel	13
Frans Steyn	12
Aphelele Fassi*	11
Handre Pollard	10
Cobus Reinach	9
Kwagga Smith	8
Pieter-Steph du Toit	7
Siya Kolisi	6
Franco Mostert	5
Eben Etzebeth	4
Trevor Nyakane	3
Bongi Mbonambi	2
Ox Nche	1
Malcolm Marx	16
Steven Kitshoff	17
Frans Malherbe	18
Marvin Orie	19
Jasper Wiese*	20
Herschel Jantjies	21
Elton Jantjies	22
Damian Willemse	23
On debut today	*

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY: Rassie Erasmus **HEAD COACH:** Jacques Nienaber
ASSISTANT COACHES: Mzwandile Stick, Deon Davids, Daan Human and Felix Jones

GEORGIA



REFEREE: Mike Adamson (SRU) **ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Wayne Barnes (RFU) and Marius vd Westhuizen (SARU) **TMO:** Marius Jonker (SARU)

- 15 Davit Niniashvili
- 14 Akaki Tabutsadze
- 13 Giorgi Kveseladze
- 12 Merab Sharikadze
- 11 Demur Tapladze
- 10 Tedo Abzhandadze
- 9 Vasil Lobzhaidze
- 8 Tornike Jalagonia
- 7 Beka Saginadze
- 6 Ilia Spanderashvili
- 5 Konstantine Mikautadze
- 4 Gigauri Davit
- 3 Giorgi Melikidze
- 2 Jaba Bregvadze
- 1 Guram Gogichashvili

- 16 Giorgi Chkoidze
- 17 Nikoloz Khatiashvili
- 18 *Luka Japaridze
- 19 Nodar Cheishvili
- 20 Giorgi Javakhia
- 21 Gela Aprasidz
- 22 Giorgi Babunashvili
- 23 Irakli Tskhadadze

* On debut today



MERAB SHARIKADZE
CAPTAIN

HEAD COACH: Levan Maisashvili

ASSISTANT COACHES: Giorgi Chkhaidze, Bessik Khamashuridze, Ilia Maisuradze and Neil Doak.

ONE MORE PUSH

everywhere you go

We're closer than ever to taking back control, to the things we miss and the people we love. Getting there means keeping it up, just a little longer. It means wearing our masks, washing our hands and social distancing. It means keeping up the hope and belief that better days are coming.

Let's give it one more push. Whatever it takes, for as long as it takes. For all of us; because we're all worth pushing for.

OneMorePushAfrica.com



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In partnership with:



THE SPRINGBOKS



Ox Nche

PROP

Born: 23/07/1995

Height: 1.73m

Weight: 115kg

Province/Club:

Cell C Sharks

1

1 TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS



Bongi Mbonambi

HOOKER

Born: 07/01/1991

Height: 1.75m

Weight: 103kg

Province/Club:

DHL Stormers

2

36 TESTS CAPS > 35 TEST POINTS



Trevor Nyakane

PROP

Born: 04/05/1989

Height: 1.78m

Weight: 121kg

Province/Club:

Vodacom Bulls

3

42 TESTS CAPS > 5 TEST POINTS



Eben Etzebeth

LOCK

Born: 29/10/1991

Height: 2.03m

Weight: 123kg

Province/Club:

Toulon (France)

4

85 TESTS CAPS > 15 TEST POINTS



Franco Mostert

LOCK

Born: 27/11/1990

Height: 2.00m

Weight: 106kg

Province/Club:

Honda Heat (Japan)

5

39 TESTS CAPS > 5 TEST POINTS



Siya Kolisi (c)

FLANKER

Born: 16/06/1991

Height: 1.88m

Weight: 98kg

Province/Club:

Cell C Sharks

6

50 TESTS CAPS > 30 TEST POINTS



Pieter-Steph du Toit

FLANKER

Born: 20/08/1992

Height: 2.00m

Weight: 113kg

Province/Club:

DHL Stormers

7

55 TESTS CAPS > 25 TEST POINTS



Kwagga Smith

NOB

Born: 11/06/1993

Height: 1.80m

Weight: 95kg

Province/Club:

Yamaha Júbilo (Japan)

8

6 TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS

THE SPRINGBOKS



Cobus Reinach 9

SCRUMHALF

Born: 07/02/1990
Height: 1.75m
Weight: 84kg
Province/Club:
Montpellier (France)

14 TESTS CAPS > 30 TEST POINTS



Handre Pollard (vc) 10

FLYHALF

Born: 11/03/1994
Height: 1.88m
Weight: 98Kg
Province/Club:
Montpellier (France)

48 TESTS CAPS > 457 TEST POINTS



Aphelele Fassi 11

WING

Born: 23/01/1998
Height: 1.89m
Weight: 89kg
Province/Club:
Cell C Sharks

DEBUT TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS



Frans Steyn 12

CENTRE

Born: 14/05/1987
Height: 1.91m
Weight: 116kg
Province/Club:
Toyota Cheetahs

67 TESTS CAPS > 141 TEST POINTS



Jesse Kriel 13

CENTRE

Born: 15/02/1994
Height: 1.86m
Weight: 95kg
Province/Club:
Canon Eagles (Japan)

46 TESTS CAPS > 60 TEST POINTS



Rosko Specman 14

WING

Born: 28/04/1989
Height: 1.76m
Weight: 85kg
Province/Club:
Toyota Cheetahs

DEBUT TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS



Willie le Roux 15

FULLBACK

Born: 18/08/1989
Height: 1.86m
Weight: 90kg
Province/Club:
Toyota Verblitz (Japan)

61 TESTS CAPS > 60 TEST POINTS



Malcolm Marx 16

HOOKER

Born: 13/07/1994
Height: 1.89m
Weight: 116kg
Province/Club:
Kubota Spears (Japan)

33 TESTS CAPS > 25 TEST POINTS



Jacques Nienaber

HEAD COACH



Steven Kitshoff

PROP

Born: 10/02/1992
Height: 1.83m
Weight: 118kg
Province/Club:
DHL Stormers

47 TESTS CAPS > 5 TEST POINTS



Frans Malherbe

PROP

Born: 14/03/1991
Height: 1.90m
Weight: 138kg
Province/Club:
DHL Stormers

38 TESTS CAPS > 5 TEST POINTS



Marvin Orié

LOCK

Born: 15/02/1993
Height: 1.98m
Weight: 110kg
Province/Club:
DHL Stormers

3 TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS



Jasper Wiese

FLANKER

Born: 21/10/1995
Height: 1.90m
Weight: 110kg
Province/Club:
Leicester Tigers (England)

DEBUT TESTS CAPS > - TEST POINTS



Herschel Jantjies

SCRUMHALF

Born: 22/04/1996
Height: 1.66m
Weight: 76kg
Province/Club:
DHL Stormers

10 TESTS CAPS > 20 TEST POINTS



Elton Jantjies

FLYHALF

Born: 01/08/1990
Height: 1.76m
Weight: 88kg
Province/Club:
Pau (France)

37 TESTS CAPS > 281 TEST POINTS



Damian Willemse

UTILITY BACK

Born: 07/05/1998
Height: 1.87m
Weight: 91kg
Province/Club:
DHL Stormers

6 TESTS CAPS > 5 TEST POINTS



Dano Swart

MTN Virtual Mascot

Age:
20
Province:
Eastern Cape



RUGBY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

SARU launches the RUGBY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM (RADAR) campaign message, aiming to increase public awareness of our zero intolerance to discrimination and racism in rugby. Racism is not a Rugby problem, it is a societal issue, but it will take a communal approach to tackle the scourge head on. We are Stronger Together in combating all forms of discriminations everywhere the Game is played.

RADAR

RUGBY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

SA Rugby encourage fans and other stakeholders to report racial and discriminatory incidents by emailing to radar@sarugby.co.za

SARU – An icon of inspiration for all



**STRONGER
TOGETHER.**

THE GEORGIANS



**Beka
Gigashvili**

PROP

Born:

17/02/92

Test Caps:

23

Test Points:

10



**Guram
Gogichashvili**

PROP

Born:

04/09/98

Test Caps:

22

Test Points:

10



**Nikoloz
Khatiashvili**

PROP

Born:

22/05/92

Test Caps:

5

Test Points:

-



**Jaba
Bregvadze**

HOOKER

Born:

23/04/87

Test Caps:

66

Test Points:

25



**Shalva
Mamukashvili**

HOOKER

Born:

02/10/90

Test Caps:

82

Test Points:

55



**Giorgi
Chkoidze**

HOOKER

Born:

17/05/91

Test Caps:

16

Test Points:

5



**Giorgi
Melikidze**

PROP

Born:

24/05/96

Test Caps:

28

Test Points:

15



**Luka
Japaridze**

PROP

Born:

06/09/98

Test Caps:

DEBUT

Test Points:

-



**Gia
Kharaiashvili**

PROP

Born:

13/02/99

Test Caps:

4

Test Points:

-



**Konstantine
Mikautadze**

LOCK

Born:

01/07/91

Test Caps:

67

Test Points:

10



**Nodar
Cheishvili**

LOCK

Born:

19/12/90

Test Caps:

31

Test Points:

-



**Davit
Gigauri**

LOCK

Born:

03/04/94

Test Caps:

11

Test Points:

5

THE GEORGIANS



Giorgi Javakhia

LOCK

Born:

24/09/96

Test Caps:

6

Test Points:

5



Beka Saginadze

BACK ROW

Born:

29/10/98

Test Caps:

21

Test Points:

15



Tornike Jalagonia

BACK ROW

Born:

12/12/98

Test Caps:

9

Test Points:

10



Giorgi Tsutskiridze



Giorgi Tsutskiridze

BACK ROW

Born:

26/11/91

Test Caps:

21

Test Points:

15



Irakli Tskhadadze

BACK ROW

Born:

01/08/96

Test Caps:

3

Test Points:

-



Ilia Spanderashvili

BACK ROW

Born:

10/09/97

Test Caps:

1

Test Points:

-



Vasil Lobzhanidze

SCRUMHALF

Born:

14/10/96

Test Caps:

58

Test Points:

50



Gela Aprasidze

SCRUMHALF

Born:

14/01/98

Test Caps:

34

Test Points:

24



Mikheil Alania

SCRUMHALF

Born:

19/11/00

Test Caps:

4

Test Points:

-



Levan Maisashvili

HEAD COACH



Tedo Abzhandadze

FLYHALF

Born:
13/06/99
Test Caps:
25
Test Points:
162



Giorgi Babunashvili

FLYHALF

Born:
15/11/95
Test Caps:
3
Test Points:
9



Merab Sharikadze

CENTRE

Born:
17/05/93
Test Caps:
77
Test Points:
60



Giorgi Kveseladze

CENTRE

Born:
11/11/97
Test Caps:
34
Test Points:
25



Demuri Tapladze

CENTRE

Born:
18/03/00
Test Caps:
9
Test Points:
5



Akaki Tabutsadze

WING

Born:
19/08/97
Test Caps:
12
Test Points:
55



Miriani Modebadze

FULLBACK

Born:
27/10/97
Test Caps:
15
Test Points:
35



Sandro Svanidze

WING

Born:
27/09/98
Test Caps:
1
Test Points:
-



Davit Niniashvili

FULLBACK

Born:
14/07/02
Test Caps:
6
Test Points:
20



Mikheil Babunashvili

LOCK

Born:
31/05/96
Test Caps:
DEBUT
Test Points:
-



Otari Lashkhi

WING

Born:
24/04/00
Test Caps:
DEBUT
Test Points:
-



Irakli Simsive

CENTRE

Born:
23/07/00
Test Caps:
DEBUT
Test Points:
-

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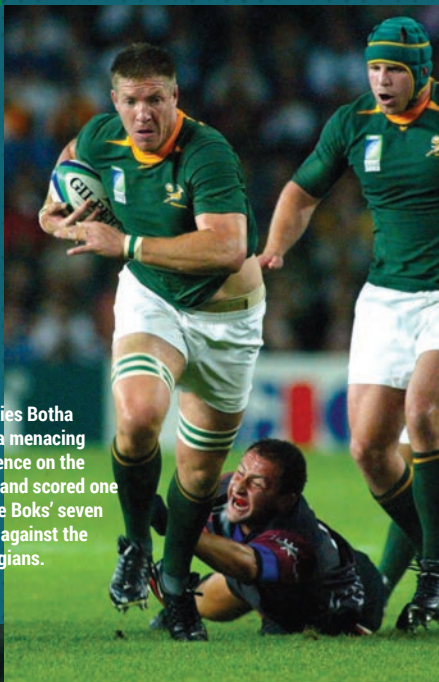


Jaque Fourie was one of the young guns in the Boks' 2003 RWC squad and scored a try against Georgia, in his second Test for South Africa.



Look back at 2003, when the Springboks faced Georgia in Sydney

Nearly 18 years ago, on 23 October 2003, South Africa and Georgia clashed for the first time in the Test arena. It was a Rugby World Cup pool game in Sydney, and the Boks won by 46-19, scoring seven tries in the process.



Bakkies Botha was a menacing presence on the field and scored one of the Boks' seven tries against the Georgians.



Playing in his 40th Test on the day, Breyton Paulse was the most experienced member of the Bok team.



Schalk Burger made his Springbok debut against Georgia, the first of his 86 Tests and he scored the first of his 16 Test tries.



Danie Rossouw started the game on the side of the scrum and scored two tries against the Georgians.



John Smit captained the Springboks for the first time against Georgia, and went on to lead the South Africa in a record 83 Tests.



Stefan Terblanche finds out that playing against Georgia is not a walk in the park.



Werner Greeff made his final appearance for South Africa, starting the Test at inside centre.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS



*Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo*

*Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba
sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika -
South Afrika.*

*Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,*

*Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.*



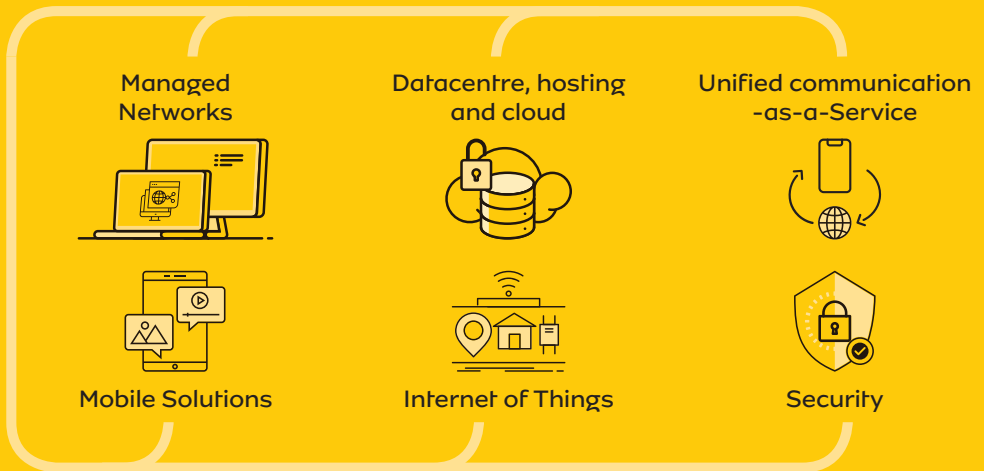
*Our icon is the homeland
Trust in God is our creed,
Enlightened land of plains and mounts,
Blessed by God and holy heaven.
The freedom we have learnt to follow
Makes our future spirits stronger,
Morning star will rise above us
And lightens up the land between
the two seas.
Glory to long-cherished freedom,
Glory to liberty!*

GEORGIAN SCRIPT

ჩემი ხატია სამშობლო,
სახატე მთელი ქვეყანა,
განათებული მთა-ბარი,
წილნაყარია ღმერთთანა.
თავისუფლება დღეს ჩვენ
მომავალს უმღერს დიდებას,
ცისკრის ვარსკვლავი ამოდის
ამოდის და ორ ზღვას შუა ბრწყინდება,
და დიდება თავისუფლებას,
თავისუფლებას დიდება!

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