

Project Name: SafiLocate – Smart Lost & Found Platform

1. Problem

In Rwanda and similar markets, when people lose important items (IDs, wallets, phones, documents), finding them again is slow, informal, and dependent on word-of-mouth, Facebook groups, or radio. There is no trusted, structured digital system to:

- Report lost items
- Report found items
- Match them intelligently
- Handle optional appreciation/tipping and posting fees in a transparent way.

2. Target Users

- Everyday citizens who lose or find items
- “Super finders”: moto drivers, taxi drivers, cleaners, security staff, etc.
- Small businesses / venues (bars, cafés, gyms, churches, schools) that keep lost items.

3. Core User Stories (MVP)

1. As a **finder**, I can report a found item **for free** (with photo, category, description, location, contact).
2. As a **loser**, I can pay a **small fee** to post my lost item listing (with details + reward message).
3. As a **user**, I can **search & filter** items by category, location, keywords, and see possible matches.
4. As a **loser**, I can **initiate a claim** on a found item (chat/phone exchange is handled outside the platform).
5. As a **loser**, I can optionally **tip** a finder after successful recovery (through integrated payment).
6. As an **admin**, I can review suspicious posts, hide/ban abusive users, and see basic analytics.

4. Platform

- Web app, mobile-first responsive.
- Later: Android wrapper or PWA, but MVP is browser-based.

5. Tech Stack Preference (MVP)

- Frontend: Next.js (React) or simple React + Vite
- Backend: Node.js + Express or Next.js API routes
- DB: PostgreSQL (or SQLite for the very first local version)
- AI:
 - Use an LLM (via API) to:
 - Normalize item categories
 - Suggest text tags from descriptions
 - Improve search relevance (e.g., generate tags for faster DB search)
- Payments: Flutterwave (RWF) for posting fee + optional tip

6. Constraints

- Very low hosting + API cost (Rwanda context).
- Minimal data collection for privacy & legal simplicity.
- No heavy real-time features in MVP (simple polling or page refresh).
- Build in small, reviewable pieces so AI tools don't "run wild".

7. Success Criteria (MVP)

- A user in Kigali can:
 - Open the site on phone

- Search or post a lost item with payment flow
- Report a found item for free
- See at least **basic AI-assisted suggestions** (tags, similar items)
- Admin can log in and hide spam posts.