

LONWABO ZIKHALI

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An emerging Data Scientist with a dual academic foundation in Data Science and Software Engineering, underpinned by strong mathematical and programming skills. Experienced in developing data pipelines, building machine learning models, and deploying full-stack applications. Passionate about analytical problem-solving and contributing to high-performance, collaborative teams.

ID: 2000/09/04

GENDER: Female

NATIONALITY: South African

RACE: African

LANGUAGES: English, Zulu, Afrikaans, Tswana, Sotho, Xhosa

DRIVERS LICENCE: Code C1

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS:

Postgraduate Diploma (NQF Level 8) – Data Science (IT), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (2025)

BHSc (NQF Level 7) – Biomedical Science, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (2020 – 2022)

Occupational Certificate (NQF Level 6) - Software Engineering (IT), WeThinkCode_ Johannesburg (2024 – 2025)

High School (Grade 12): Germiston High School, (2014 – 2018)

CERTIFICATION AND SKILLS:

Rapid Developer: Mendix Academy (2025)

Full Stack Development: FNB App Academy (2025)

Generative AI for Software Engineers: WeThinkCode_ (2025)

Digital Transformation: University of the Witwatersrand (2024)

Microsoft PowerBI Data Analyst (PL300T00-A): Microsoft Elevate

Microsoft Azure Administrator Associate: Mzansi Digital Learning

EMPLOYMENT:

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES (2023)

Reporting and Data Analytics Intern

- Captured, cleaned, and analysed large operational datasets using SQL and Excel to track efficiency and performance.
- Designed, optimized, and maintained SQL queries, data models, and database structures ensuring data integrity and availability.
- Built ETL pipelines and ODBC integrations to support scalable data warehousing and analytics.
- Developed interactive KPI dashboards and reports using Power BI, Power Query, and DAX.
- Automated workflows, reporting, and internal processes using scripting and bots to improve productivity.
- Mapped end-to-end business processes and implemented data-driven optimization initiatives.
- Performed data validation, cleansing, and ad hoc reporting for business units.
- Collaborated with developers and stakeholders on database design, reporting needs, and system improvements.

VOLUNTEERING:

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (29 May, 2024)

Electoral Officer

- Processed and validated data for 500+ voters, ensuring full compliance and accuracy.
- Coordinated logistics, data entry, and crowd management under high-pressure conditions.
- Facilitated voter registration and processing with 100% documentation accuracy.
- Identified and escalated issues early, preventing delays and maintaining order.
- Handled and reconciled materials securely, achieving error-free ballot accounting.

TOOLS & SKILLS:

Data Science & Machine Learning: Scikit-learn, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Apache Spark, Jupyter Notebook, Google Colab, exploratory data analysis, feature engineering, model evaluation, basic deep learning workflows, PowerBI

Data Analysis, Visualisation & Reporting: Power BI, Tableau, Microsoft Excel (Pivot Tables, VLOOKUP, basic macros), T-SQL, Power BI M & DAX language, API integration (REST), data cleaning, reporting automation, dashboard development

Databases & Data Engineering: Relational database design, RDBMS management, SQL querying, data pipelines, data staging, and foundational data warehousing concepts (Kimball methodology)

Software Engineering & Development Tools: GitHub, GitLab, Docker, Linux, VS Code, IntelliJ, Agile development practices, test-driven development (TDD), debugging, collaborative software development, Java, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React.js languages

Cloud & Infrastructure (Foundational): Microsoft Azure, Oracle Cloud, basic DevOps concepts, and networking fundamentals

Statistical & Analytical Competencies: Statistical analysis, problem decomposition, algorithmic thinking, object-relational mapping (ORM), and applied data-driven decision-making

REFEREES:

Nolundi Mahlwabi, Colleague – The South African Breweries

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Dr Sylvester I. Omoruyi, Former Supervisor – University of the Witwatersrand School of Anatomical Science

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