LONWABO ZIKHALI

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LonwaboZikhali · GitHub

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.

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG (2025)

Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science (IT)

Modules:

Programming for Data Scientists, Mathematical and Statistical Foundations of Data Science, Applied Machine Learning, Data Science in Practice

Electives:

Health Analytics, Applications of Machine Learning in Chemistry, Visualizing African Societies with Data, Social Media Analysis in and for the Global South, Spatio-Temporal Data Analysis

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG (2020 – 2022)

BHSc (Biomedical Science)

Majors:

Human Biology & Medical Cell Biology

WETHINKCODE_ JOHANNESBURG (2024 – 2025)

Occupational Certificate: Software Engineering (NQF6)

Core focus:

- The Software Development Lifecycle
- Java and Python Programming
- Web Development
- Frontend and Backend Development
- Object Oriented Programming
- Software Quality Assurance
- Systems Integration

FNB APP ACADEMY (2025)

Full Stack Development: Certificate

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, DIGITAL CAMPUS (2024)

Digital Transformation Lifecycle: Certificate of Competence

GERMISTON HIGH SCHOOL, GERMISTON (2014 – 2018)

Highest Grade Passed: Grade 12

Subjects:

English Home Language (72%), Afrikaans First Additional Language (78%), Mathematics (71%), Life Science (72%), Physical Science (77%), History (71%), Life Orientation (60%)

EMPLOYMENT:

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES (2023)

Reporting and Data Analysis Intern:

- Captured and processed operational data for efficiency tracking
- Built interactive dashboards using Microsoft Power BI to visualize KPIs

- Mapped end-to-end business processes and identified optimization opportunities
- Automated repetitive workflows and build internal-use bots to improve team productivity
- Supported business units with real-time reporting, data cleansing and validation
- Tracked project timelines, managed meeting records and ensured follow-through
- Generated and analysed employee data reports for internal use and strategic planning
- Designed and distributed internal communications campaigns and external media
- Coordinated and managed employee development projects from planning to execution
- Supported recruitment and onboarding of new trainees across business units
- Issued long-service recognition certificates, managing stakeholder approvals and design
- Used project management tools to align HR deliverables with company timelines

COCA-COLA BEVERAGES SOUTH AFRICA (2024)

Packaging Learner:

- Operated and monitored bottling and packaging processes to ensure continuous, efficient production
- Performed quality tests and adhered to strict food safety, GMP, GLP and 5S standards to maintain product compliance
- Supported machine changeovers and ensured timeous resets to minimise downtime and keep production on schedule
- Assisted with troubleshooting equipment issues, helping to restore operations and reduce production delays
- Conducted Short Interval Control (SIC) checks and recorded deviations to improve line efficiency
- Participated in daily safety and housekeeping routines, contributing to a safe and compliant working environment
- Developed problem-solving skills by analysing root causes and supporting corrective actions across the line

VOLUNTEERING:

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (2024)

Electoral Officer (29 May, 2024)

- Processed and validated data of over 500 voters, maintaining compliance and accuracy
- Coordinated logistics, data entry and crowd management under high pressure conditions

LANGUAGES:

English (Home Language), IsiZulu (Fluent), Setswana (Home language), Afrikaans (Intermediate)

SKILLS:

Languages and Frameworks: Python, Java, Bash, SQL, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, React.js

Data and ML tools: Scikit-Learn, Pytorch, TensorFlow, Apache Spark, Power BI, Tableau, Jupyter, Google Colab, GeoDataScience, Contextily, Twarc, Gephi, RDKit Cheminformatics Software

Devops and Infrastructure: Docker, Github, Gitlab, Microsoft Azure, VSCode, IntelliJ, Linux, Oracle Cloud

Data & Reporting: SQL, Power BI, API integration (REST), SSRS, Data pipeline development, R, Quantum GIS, RDBMS database management, Microsoft Excel - Macros, V-Lookups and Pivot Tables, Visual Basic (VBA), Mendix

Core Competencies: Statistical Analysis, Agile development, Test-driven Development, Behavior-driven Development, Collaborative Software Projects, Object Relational Mapping

REFEREES:

Nolundi Mahlwabi

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