

Sicelamandla Zikhali

Software Engineer · Full-Stack Product Builder

Cape Town, South Africa

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PROFILE

I turn real-world problems into reliable software — from thoughtful interfaces and internal tools to backend services, data workflows and production systems.

Based in Cape Town · Open to permanent, contract and part-time opportunities

SKILLS

Languages	TypeScript · JavaScript · Rust · Go · Python · Java · Scala · C# · Kotlin · SQL
Frontend and applications	Svelte · SvelteKit · React · React Native · Tailwind CSS · HTML · CSS · SCSS · Streamlit · Android · Vitest
Backend and APIs	Rust microservices · Go services · Python applications · Scala / Akka HTTP · gRPC · Protocol Buffers · Authentication, roles and multi-tenancy
Data, messaging and infrastructure	MySQL · TiDB · PostgreSQL · MongoDB · Redis · Elasticsearch · OpenSearch · NATS · RabbitMQ · Temporal · OpenTelemetry · Docker · Kubernetes · AWS · Azure DevOps · GitHub CI/CD
Engineering practice	End-to-end feature delivery · Software design · Reusable components · Code review · Debugging and production support · Agile / Scrum · Mentoring · AI-assisted development

EXPERIENCE

Nov 2024 – Present Remote · Full-time	Software Engineer, Zulzi <i>E-commerce services and applications. Full-stack across several products, from the database up to the screen.</i> - Backend: asynchronous Rust services (Tokio, Tonic, SQLx) and Go services, talking to each other over gRPC and Protocol Buffers, with NATS and RabbitMQ for messaging. - Data and search: MySQL, TiDB and PostgreSQL for storage, Redis for caching, and Elasticsearch / OpenSearch for search. - Reliability: OpenTelemetry tracing with Jaeger, durable workflows with Temporal, container-based integration tests, and local Kubernetes deployments. - Frontend: SvelteKit administration and operations portals styled with Tailwind CSS, tested with Vitest and Playwright, with maps and routes through Mapbox and Google Maps. - Mobile and data tooling: customer-facing experiences in Svelte, React Native and Kotlin/Android, plus Python and Streamlit tools for data analysis. - Authentication, roles, permissions and multi-tenant access, and reporting applications for operations teams. - Turned operational and customer problems into features, with production troubleshooting and support, including peak periods and system overload; code reviews, pull-request testing and bug fixes. STACK Rust, Go, Tokio, SvelteKit, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, Python, Streamlit, React Native, Kotlin, RabbitMQ, Redis, MySQL, TiDB, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch, Temporal, OpenTelemetry, Jaeger, Mapbox, Google Maps, Vitest, Docker, Kubernetes
Sep 2022 – Nov 2024 Hybrid · Full-time	Software Developer, Chouette Software Solutions <i>Frontend specialist on React and TypeScript single-page applications.</i> - Built features for single-page applications, working with browser storage, IndexedDB, caching and background service-worker processes. - Developed reusable UI components and SCSS/CSS patterns, applying SOLID principles. - Integrated the frontend with backend APIs and Amazon S3. - Reviewed pull requests, tested edge cases, fixed bugs and presented completed features at sprint reviews. - Worked in Scrum using Azure DevOps for repositories, CI/CD and planning. STACK React, TypeScript, SCSS, Amazon S3, Azure DevOps

Sep 2021 – Apr 2022
Hybrid · Contract

Backend Engineer, **Full Facing (Pty) Ltd**

- Learned Scala and functional programming and contributed to an established project.
- Implemented microservices with Scala and Akka HTTP, and inter-service communication with RabbitMQ.
- Worked with MongoDB, Docker, AWS, GitHub CI/CD and microservice deployment.

STACK Scala, Akka HTTP, RabbitMQ, MongoDB, Docker, AWS

Dec 2020 – Dec 2021

Web Developer, **Zaio**

- Practised web development through mock applications, adding features beyond the initial requirements. These were learning projects, not products for the companies that inspired them.
- Worked with JavaScript, HTML, CSS, React, React Native, Node.js, MongoDB, Firebase and Sass/SCSS.

STACK JavaScript, React, React Native, Node.js, MongoDB, Firebase

Apr 2022 – Present
Remote · Part-time

Computer Science and Mathematics Tutor, **JiffyTutors**

- Tutors undergraduate pure Mathematics and Computer Science courses, helping students understand technical concepts and build problem-solving skills.

STACK Mathematics, Computer Science, Python, Java

Jan 2020 – Jan 2023
Part-time

Computer Lab Assistant, **University of Cape Town**

- Supported students in the computer labs, particularly with Python and Java, and recorded hardware and technical issues for repair.
- Helped with basic software and connectivity problems and referred complex access issues to ICTS.

STACK Python, Java, Linux

Jan 2018 – Jan 2023
Part-time

Tutor, **UCT HelpAtScience Initiative**

- Supported first-year students in Science subjects after hours and during breaks, tutoring pure Mathematics and Computer Science.

STACK Mathematics, Computer Science

SELECTED PROJECTS

Paperiser Live product. Turns ABSA bank statement PDFs into clean, verified Excel or CSV files, and matches invoices and receipts to the payments that settled them. *Designed, built, deployed and maintain it.*

Kasilator Ongoing project. A mobile-first transport utility designed around everyday South African taxi journeys, combining fare-change calculation with planned access to transport schedules. *Co-founder. Developed the app with Expo, React Native and TypeScript, and took on project ownership, project management, UX design and branding.*

QuizGen University group project. A final-year university group project exploring automated generation of Data Structures questions at several difficulty levels, for quizzes, assignments and online assessments. *Built in Java as part of a student team.*

Early learning projects Learning projects. Practice builds from my time at Zaio, inspired by familiar products to learn real patterns: an e-commerce shopping app, a Property24-inspired app (React and Firebase, including database security rules) and a Facebook-style login page. Learning exercises, not affiliated with the original companies.

EDUCATION

BSc in Computer Science and Mathematics

University of Cape Town, 2023

CERTIFICATION

Claude in Action, Anthropic (2026). Advancing in Anthropic's agentic programming. [Verify](#)

RECOGNITION

- One of the top 200 matriculants in KwaZulu-Natal Province
- First in the high school
- Participated in the Mid-Year Bootcamp for Umlazi District matriculants
- Zaio Elite Web Developer