

Leon Africa

Senior DevOps Engineer (Kubernetes, Terraform, Observability & Blockchain Infrastructure)

Cape Town (GMT+2) | Global Remote

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Profile

Senior DevOps Engineer operating Kubernetes platforms, Terraform-based cloud infrastructure and observability stacks for high-throughput production systems.

Previously operated mainnet and testnet node and RPC infrastructure at Polygon during rapid protocol scaling, contributing monitoring and infrastructure insights during the 2021 Polygon PoS chain freeze.

Currently responsible for reliability and DevOps practices around real-time payment systems at Capitec Bank.

Core Expertise

DevOps & Platform Engineering

- Terraform, Kubernetes (EKS), cloud infrastructure design
- GitOps / CI/CD: ArgoCD, GitHub Actions, Ansible
- Observability: Prometheus, Grafana LGTM, Datadog, Instana
- Multi-cloud HA architecture (AWS, Azure, GCP, Hetzner)
- RPC, networking, and high-availability system design

Blockchain Protocol & Node Infrastructure

- Validators, full nodes, RPC architecture, mempool visibility
- Ethereum / EVM internals, DeFi transaction flows
- Substrate, Cosmos (CometBFT), Filecoin Lotus
- DevNet creation for protocol upgrade testing

- Chain reliability engineering and performance benchmarking
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Professional Experience

Capitec Bank - DMC DevOps Engineer [Platform Engineer II]

2025 - Present

- Design and build cloud infrastructure and DevOps processes for transaction-critical payment flows. [Digital Merchant Commerce]
 - Kubernetes EKS platform engineering with GitHub Actions, ArgoCD, Rancher
 - Observability for transaction processing (Grafana, Prometheus, Instana)
 - Built alerting, dashboards, and SLO-driven monitoring for payment reliability
 - Designed DevOps processes for new Merchant Online Portal
 - Load testing pipelines using Locust
 - Cross-team DevOps engineering with developers, testers, and BAs
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Mr Delivery - Senior DevOps Engineer

2023 - 2025

Enterprise Kubernetes platform engineering for high-traffic production systems.

- Kubernetes platform management (EKS)
 - LGTM observability stack with Grafana Alloy optimization
 - Improved cluster reliability and observability for production workloads
 - DevOps/SecOps architecture, Slack/Jira automation
 - Ansible dynamic inventory, AWS Glue, IAM automation
 - Designed AI driven billing automation
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Polygon Technology - Senior DevOps / Blockchain Infrastructure Engineer

2021 - 2023

DevOps for Polygon mainnet and testnet node infrastructure during rapid protocol growth.

- Monitoring, observability, and reliability of Polygon mainnet/testnet node and RPC infrastructure
- Datadog multicloud ansible automation

- Built blockchain metric extrapolation and benchmarking systems
 - Contributed infrastructure insights during Polygon PoS chain freeze (2021)
 - Designed DevOps infrastructure for Polygon Avail (Substrate) and Miden initiatives
 - Built automation patterns later reused across Avail, Evmos, Axelar, Gno, and Filecoin environments
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Western Cape Government - Specialist Analyst Developer

2019 - 2021

Designed and implemented a serverless Azure API integrating live national road camera feeds. The system remains in production handling millions of requests.

Amazon Web Services - Cloud Support Engineer (Developer & Mobile)

2016 - 2018

Architectural guidance for Fortune 500 serverless and cloud systems. Deep expertise in API Gateway, Lambda, Cognito, Kinesis, DynamoDB.

Protocol & Node Infrastructure Work

Author of EIP-7890. Open-source infrastructure and validator work across Avail, Filecoin, Evmos, Axelar, GnoLand, Cairo, Solidity, and ZKP research, including:

- EVM benchmarking system for Polygon mainnet
 - Axelar & Evmos DevNet infrastructure for protocol testing
 - Automated Filecoin Lotus full node deployment
 - Gno.land AWS deployment pattern
 - Chaum-Pedersen ZKP implementation in Rust
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Education

BSc Physical Science (Mathematics Double Major)
PGDip ICT & Software Development - University of the Western Cape
Starknet Basecamp 12 - Honours Graduate