

# Israel Abiona

## BACKEND ENGINEER

Lagos, Nigeria

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Backend Engineer with 5+ years of experience designing, building, and scaling high-performance systems across FinTech, EdTech, and SaaS. Proven track record leading backend architecture for enterprise-grade platforms handling millions of records, PCI-DSS-compliant payment flows, and cloud infrastructure optimizations that reduced costs by up to 90%. Expert in Python (Django, DRF, FastAPI), PostgreSQL, Redis, Celery, and Docker, with strong DevOps experience across AWS, GCP, and Kubernetes.

## CORE SKILLS

### Languages & Frameworks

Python (Django, DRF, FastAPI), JavaScript (Express.js, Nest.js), Golang, PHP (Laravel)

### Databases

PostgreSQL, MySQL, ClickHouse, Redis, Amazon RDS, MongoDB

### Infrastructure & DevOps

AWS, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, ArgoCD, GitLab CI/CD, GitHub Actions

### AI & Integrations

LangChain, HuggingFace, OpenAI, Amazon Textract

### Payments & Compliance

Stripe, Plaid, Flutterwave, Veem, PCI-DSS

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Apel Assets — Lagos, Nigeria

#### Backend Engineer | Jul 2025 – Present

- Contribute to the development of the flagship internal operations platform using Django Rest Framework, designing and implementing scalable backend services for investment management workflows.
- Optimize API performance, integrate third-party financial data providers, and enhance authentication and authorization flows to ensure robust data integrity across mission-critical

processes.

- Drive architectural decisions, conduct code reviews, and mentor junior engineers while collaborating closely with product, frontend, and DevOps teams to deliver secure, high-availability features.

## **Milestone** — Lagos, Nigeria

**Founder & CTO** | Jan 2025 – Present

- Founded and built Milestone, a project management and payment automation platform currently serving 30+ active users.
- Implemented milestone-based payment flows with Stripe and Flutterwave integrations, including subscription billing and automated payout triggers.
- Improved system performance by 40% through Redis caching, Celery-based task queues, and architectural optimizations across Django and FastAPI services.
- Established CI/CD pipelines using Docker and GitHub Actions to streamline deployments and ensure scalable, repeatable releases.

## **ElitePayables** — North Carolina, United States (Remote)

**Tech Lead** | Sep 2024 – Jan 2026

- Led backend engineering for an enterprise Accounts Payable SaaS platform integrating Bank of America, Stripe, and Plaid for ACH payment processing.
- Designed and implemented PCI-DSS-compliant systems with AI-powered fraud detection using HuggingFace models.
- Built invoice automation using Amazon Textract, and integrated QuickBooks, SharePoint, and Google Docs into multi-layer approval workflows.
- Deployed serverless task execution using AWS Lambda with Dockerized containers for cost-efficient, scalable processing.

## **Reown Africa** — Lagos, Nigeria

**Backend Engineer (Contract)** | Aug 2024 – Jul 2025

- Refactored the backend codebase to improve overall performance by 30% through query optimization, caching strategies, and DevOps restructuring.
- Led development of Reown API V2, pivoting the product from general vehicle data to electric vehicle retail with real-time EV bike monitoring using Django, Redis, and Celery.
- Introduced circuit breaker patterns to resolve launch-critical reliability issues and reduced monthly infrastructure costs by 90% (from \$150 to \$15/month).

## **RockTea** — Lagos, Nigeria

**Full Stack Software Engineer** | Apr 2023 – Apr 2024

- Architected a multi-tenant B2B2C dropshipping platform featuring custom DRF middleware,

pricing automation engines, and client self-service site deployment functionality.

- Integrated third-party logistics APIs (GiG, TopShip, Kwik) to improve order fulfillment reliability and enable scalable shipping management for platform clients.

## **FCMB FlipToTech** — Lagos, Nigeria

**Backend Engineer** | Apr 2022 – Apr 2023

- Built and deployed RESTful APIs using Django Rest Framework and PostgreSQL to manage a database of 2M+ Nigerian schools, supporting nationwide EdTech operations.
- Contributed to FlipToTech's flagship e-learning platform, ensuring system scalability and seamless integration with React and Vue frontend dashboards.

## **NOTABLE PROJECTS**

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SlumArt</b> | Built backend infrastructure and payment integrations for a donation and art sales platform that raised \$10,000+ for children in Lagos slums. |
| <b>Queeka</b>  | Developed a logistics aggregation backend giving e-commerce businesses access to multiple shipping options through a single unified API.       |

## **EDUCATION**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>BSc, Software Engineering</b> — Miva Open University                | 2024 – Present |
| <b>National Diploma, Computer Science</b> — Yaba College of Technology | 2021 – 2023    |

## **PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

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- Structuring API Responses with Custom Middleware in Django REST Framework
- Technology As An Accelerator Of Momentum, Not The Creator Of It