

Vulavula — Lelapa AI's Speech-to-Text and NLP Platform for South African Languages

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 56/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

A Johannesburg startup built Vulavula, a speech-to-text and text-analysis tool for isiZulu, Sesotho and Afrikaans, so telecom and bank call centres can serve African-language speakers without forcing them into English.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	0/1
Evaluation evidence	0/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[Lelapa AI](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[MIT Technology Review](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[ITWeb](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

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