# Oslo Airport Adds Direct BTCPay–Blink Settlement as Dominican Bitcoin Recognition Remains Non-Regulatory

Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker

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## Oslo Airport Adds Direct BTCPay–Blink Settlement as Dominican Bitcoin Recognition Remains Non-Regulatory

*By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • August 21, 2026*

A live BTCPay–Blink settlement integration at Oslo Airport leads a period that also brings a reported 45-establishment Witsand footprint and new education-linked Lightning spending. Dominican statutory references add legal recognition and tax treatment without legal-tender or comprehensive licensing changes.

### Major Adoption News

**Oslo, Norway — Tax Free Norway connects checkout to direct settlement.** NorthOfTheWalls reported that all "freedom money" sales at Tax Free Norway's duty-free shop at Oslo Airport using BTCPay Server are settled directly to a non-custodial Blink account through an updated Blink–BTCPay Server plug-in. [1] This is a live processor-to-wallet integration rather than a directory listing: it reduces the custody layer between a merchant checkout and its receiving account, although the announcement gives no sales count or value.

**Witsand, Western Cape, South Africa — a reported town-scale acceptance model.** Money Badger described Witsand as a tiny South African town going "all in" on everyday Bitcoin payments. [2] The linked report describes a village of roughly 600 residents with 45 establishments accepting Bitcoin for purchases ranging from groceries to fuel; its timeline dates the 45-establishment count to April 2025, so it is best treated as a footprint baseline rather than current-period growth. [3] The initiative began with a local programmer and restaurant owner, and the report says merchants receive guaranteed fiat exchange rates, while the community has also begun facilitating Bitcoindenominated loans. Garden Route tourism gives participating businesses a potential visitor-spend channel beyond the local population. [3] The combination addresses merchant volatility concerns and broadens Bitcoin's role beyond checkout, but the source reports no transaction volume.

**Ekiti, Nigeria — education was paired with actual Lightning use.** Bitcoin Ekiti said its participants moved beyond theory, learning why Lightning can make everyday Bitcoin transactions fast, low-cost and easy to use, then putting that knowledge into practice. [4] A later post promoted spending sats at a local merchant through the Blink wallet and a BTC Map listing. [5] This is a credible education-to-payment pathway, but it remains a demonstration: no merchant name, amount or repeat-use rate is given.

**Bitcoin Ekasi — rewards reached a retail checkout.** In its Cohort 6 program, Bitcoin Ekasi said students earned their first weekly attendance rewards after a 100% attendance week and then spent the Bitcoin at John's Shop through Lightning. [6] The post supplies a concrete link between an incentive program and local retail spending, but not the number of students, sats spent or transactions.

Smaller channels continued to publish spendable endpoints: Bitcoin Aves promoted "sats for food" at Dora's Food Joint with a Blink Lightning address and BTC Map record, while Bitcoin Karoo publicized `doornkraal@blink.sv` alongside a BTC Map listing. [7, 8] These improve merchant discoverability; neither post establishes completed payment volume.

## Payment Infrastructure

**BTCPay Server — security concerns are now constraining feature velocity.** Nicolas Dorier said BTCPay Server must put the brakes on new feature development for a while and warned that future releases may remove features or introduce breaking changes because of attack surface created when features are combined with other exploits. [9] This is a security-led change in product posture for a major merchant-payment stack. The announcement does not identify the affected features or prescribe an operator migration path, so compatibility and service impacts remain prospective.

**Lightning node operations — AI control is moving into pre-release tooling.** LDK Server remains pre-release, but `ldk-server-mcp` exposes every node RPC as an MCP tool for clients including Claude Code, Codex CLI and Goose; the example use case is querying which channels have low outbound liquidity. [10] If hardened for production, this could lower the operational burden of monitoring and managing Lightning liquidity. The current signal is an operations interface, not evidence of live payment adoption or production throughput.

## Regulatory Landscape

**Dominican Republic — statutory recognition without a payment-law reset.** Bitcoin Dominicana's current announcement says Bitcoin has entered Dominican legislation but explicitly says this does not mean it is regulated or that the work is finished. [11] Its linked legal analysis discloses that the author presides over the Asociación de Bitcoin Dominicana, and says the country still lacks a digital-assets law even though two laws enacted between August 2025 and June 2026 now mention cryptoassets; neither regulates the sector. [12]

- **Anti-fraud treatment:** Law 74-25, effective in August 2026, contains the first statutory mention of digital assets in the Dominican Republic, in the provision on pyramid fraud. The analysis says the provision does not define cryptoassets, create licenses or assign a supervisor, and does not make buying Bitcoin, self-custody, receiving it as payment or sending it illegal. [12]
- **Tax treatment:** Law 30-26, promulgated June 18, 2026, added "digital goods and cryptoassets" to the Tax Code's definition of capital assets. The analysis says this elevates an existing tax position rather than creates a new Bitcoin tax: holding Bitcoin is not taxed, while a profitable sale is treated as a capital gain. [12]
- **Payment status and next steps:** The peso remains the only legal tender, so no one is obliged to accept Bitcoin, but voluntary agreement to accept it is not illegal. Two sectoral bills had no recorded progress after the June committee activity and remain pending into the next legislative session; the country still lacks a dedicated licensing, custody, consumer-protection and prudential regime for digital-asset providers. [12]

## Usage Metrics

The period's measurable signals describe acceptance coverage and program activity more often than settled transaction volume:

| Geography | Reported measure | What it measures—and what it does not |
|---|---|---|
| Witsand, South Africa | Roughly 600 residents and 45 Bitcoin-accepting establishments across groceries, restaurants and fuel; the article dates the count to April 2025. [3] | Merchant footprint, not current-period sales, transaction count or repeat usage. |

| Geography | Reported measure | What it measures—and what it does not |
|---|---|---|
| Oslo Airport, Norway | All announced “freedom money” sales at one Tax Free Norway duty-free shop route through BTCPay to a non-custodial Blink account. [1] | Checkout coverage at one site, not sales volume or value. |
| Bitcoin Ekasi | Students reportedly reached 100% attendance, received weekly Bitcoin rewards and spent them at John’s Shop via Lightning. [6] | An education and incentive program linked to retail use, not a transaction or merchant-growth statistic. |

No current direct-spend example in the reviewed set supplies a comparable sats amount, transaction total or repeat-use rate.

## Emerging Markets

**Kitui, Kenya — merchant onboarding is being funded as grassroots infrastructure.** Bitcoin Kitui is soliciting support for its Bitcoin Circular Economy, accepting Lightning donations at `galactic100@blink.sv` and saying every donated sat helps onboard new merchants. [13] This is a supply-side adoption signal: the project is trying to expand the acceptance base, but it reports neither funds raised nor merchants onboarded.

**Livingstone, Zambia — Bitcoin is being positioned as part of a visitor economy.** Bitcoin Victoria Falls invited visitors to see the natural wonder and experience how Bitcoin is becoming part of everyday life in Livingstone, explicitly framing the offer around a local Bitcoin economy. [14] The tourism connection is commercially relevant, but the post names no participating businesses and gives no payment data, so it is a market-development signal rather than verified usage.

## Adoption Outlook

The strongest signals are operational and grassroots rather than macroeconomic: a live BTCPay-to-non-custodial-wallet deployment at Oslo Airport, a reported multi-establishment footprint in Witsand, and education-linked Lightning spending in Ekiti and the Bitcoin Ekasi program. [1, 3, 4, 6]

The enabling stack is developing under constraint. BTCPay is considering feature brakes, removals and breaking changes to reduce attack-surface risk, while

AI-assisted Lightning node management remains pre-release. [9, 10] Dominican legal developments add anti-fraud and tax recognition, but leave the peso as the only legal tender, impose no Bitcoin-acceptance mandate and do not create a comprehensive sector regime. [12] The defensible read is wider acceptance infrastructure and more varied community use cases, while the only broad merchant count is a dated April 2025 baseline and current spending posts still lack transaction values or volumes. [3, 6, 5]

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**Sources**


1. X post by @NorthOfTheWalls
2. X post by @MoneyBadgerPay
3. Witsand adopts Bitcoin for everyday transactions as tiny South African town goes all in on crypto payments
4. X post by @BitcoinEkiti
5. X post by @BitcoinEkiti
6. X post by @BitcoinEkasi
7. X post by @bitcoin_aves
8. X post by @BitcoinKaroo
9. X post by @NicolasDorier
10. X post by @lightningdevkit
11. X post by @btcdominicana
12. De las advertencias del Banco Central al Código Penal: así entró Bitcoin al derecho dominicano
13. X post by @BitcoinKitui
14. X post by @BitcoinVicFalls