

Hi, Adam.

I'm Rafael and just listened to podcast 476 about El Salvador adopting bitcoin as legal tender.

Don't know if you've had the opportunity to speak to someone here in El Salvador about it. But anyways, I wanted to mention a few things I heard on the podcast and that I consider of some importance in this process we're going through.

1- the government has announced that they will put out their own wallet and they will give away 30 USD in BTC to every person that installs the app. These 30 bucks won't be convertible to USD or cash, but should be used inside the app.

2- you mentioned in the podcast that apparently the bill is made in a pragmatic way and would be focused on big companies to adopt the currency, not so much on people that live in rural areas or informal merchants... However, the government has mentioned financial inclusion as a key point in the decision of adopting bitcoin. According to the government, there is around 70% of the population that doesn't have access to the banking system, so adopting bitcoin will be a way of giving them financial inclusion. However, El Salvador is among the countries in Latin America that have the lowest internet access in rural areas (on average, there is less than 37% of the population with internet access in rural areas in Latin America according to an article from November 2020).

3- the forking dilemma and the decision on what fork to take, sounded quite interesting to analyze. I've studied a bit on BTC and blockchain, but I think I haven't gone so deep as to quite understand about it just yet... have to read a bit more maybe.

4- just this week, the government has made public a proposal on technical norm for banks and/or financial institutions that may want to give exchange services or develop wallets. That may be the hot topic here this week (although we have a lot of hot topics always hehehe). However the additional rules or norms regarding usage by the people, or the app itself have not been shown or talked about in recent days.

Well that's quite OK for now, but hope to keep in touch when new developments occur. The bill goes in effect on Sept 7, so this is going to get quite interesting in the days to come.