

South African Crypto Startups Pioneer Practical Blockchain Use

August 18, 2025

— Categories: *Crypto*



Download IPFS

Cape Town, South Africa, South African entrepreneurs are turning innovative ideas into practical blockchain applications, demonstrating that cryptocurrencies can go beyond volatile markets and memecoin hype.

While memecoins have drawn global attention for speculative gains, some South African projects are focusing on tangible utility. A recent example involves a local startup creating

“Fibertime” tokens, designed to provide affordable internet access to underserved communities.

The system allows users to purchase R5 vouchers, equivalent to roughly \$0.25, granting 24 hours of uncapped, unthrottled internet access. These vouchers function like stablecoins, leveraging blockchain technology to ensure that users can access connectivity even during currency fluctuations. Users can also trade these vouchers among themselves, creating a decentralized, community-driven network of internet access.

Alan Knott-Craig, the entrepreneur behind the initiative, explained that this approach merges blockchain innovation with practical utility. “It’s about creating a model where people can reliably access essential services, not just speculate on digital tokens,” Knott-Craig said.

The project highlights a growing trend in the cryptocurrency industry: a move away from high-risk, hype-driven tokens toward sustainable and functional applications. Unlike memecoins, which often depend on social media buzz and speculation, utility-focused tokens like Fibertime aim to solve real-world problems.

The South African blockchain ecosystem has seen a mix of high-profile token launches, some of which raised millions through speculative sales. For example, a memecoin tied to a prominent political figure reportedly netted \$350 million in fees and token sales, illustrating the volatility and attention-driven nature of certain crypto markets. Experts warn that such projects often carry high risk, including rug pulls or sudden market collapses.

In contrast, utility-based blockchain projects like Fibertime demonstrate the technology’s potential to benefit communities directly. By providing affordable internet, the platform supports digital inclusion in areas where connectivity remains a challenge, while also showcasing how blockchain can underpin reliable, tradable services without relying on traditional financial institutions.

The model could inspire similar initiatives globally, where blockchain is used to enhance access to essential services, rather than purely for speculative profit. Analysts suggest that as the crypto sector matures, projects emphasizing practical applications may gain more traction among users and investors seeking stability and social impact.

South Africa’s blockchain landscape illustrates that the technology is evolving. While memecoins continue to capture headlines, ventures focused on tangible utility offer a

blueprint for sustainable, community-focused innovation in the digital economy.