

## Surflin partnership to provide free Wi-Fi to public libraries in Ghana

Ghanaian operator Surflin Communications has partnered Ghana Library Authority (GhLA) to provide free Wi-Fi connectivity to members of public libraries in the Greater Accra Region.



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The executive director of Ghana Library Authority, Hayford Siaw, and the chief executive officer (CEO) of Surflin Communications, Rene Gameli-Kwame, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on behalf of their respective institutions.

With the partnership, Surflin will devise a model for user subscriptions on the network for library users and provide live video streaming on Facebook for key events during the Year of Reading Project campaign.

Gameli-Kwame commended the management of GhLA for such an initiative and pledged Surflin's preparedness to support and work toward the realisation of this vision and even go beyond the provision of internet connectivity.

The GhLA will publicise and project the partnership between the two institutions in the social and traditional media, as well as provide space for branding Surflin during key events within the year.

Siaw expressed delight that the partnership with Surflin would help the GhLA to be more connected.

He said it was refreshing to have libraries "where young people can come, pull out their laptops and get connected to the internet through the WiFi".

Siaw said the vision of the GhLA was to ensure that every library in the country had internet connectivity, where registered members of public libraries could be connected via WiFi.

He noted that while there was internet penetration in the country, there was still a significant gap in terms of access to connectivity, noting that the libraries could serve as a bridge.

He announced that the GhLA was working with the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC) to stock all libraries in the country with computers, adding: “Given the application of distance learning in the country, every single Ghanaian should have access to a computer and the internet.”

Gameli-Kwame, commended the management of the GhLA for taking such an ambitious step to revamp the libraries and also provide internet connectivity.

He said Siaw’s vision was encouraging and needed support and said his company was willing to partner the GhLA to ensure the realisation of the vision.

Gameli-Kwame said Surfline, as an indigenous broadband wireless service telecommunications company “goes beyond just providing Internet connectivity”.

He said Surfline was more than willing to go beyond just providing internet connectivity because, “we have a team of engineers who understand how automation works, how hosting works and we are more than happy to render these services to the GhLA to help you achieve your objective”.

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