



SkyFox Digest

The SkyFox Quarterly Newsletter

June 2019

SkyFox partners Charity: Water, CWSA to install sensors on water pumps in Ghana

IN THIS EDITION

- SkyFox partners Charity: Water, CWSA to install sensors on water pumps in Ghana
- SkyFox completes pilot for SMS self-billing system.
- Chief lauds SkyFox projects in Wankayaw

SkyFox Limited, in partnership with Charity: Water and the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), is installing 1,000 AFD-2 water sensors in different communities selected from ten regions of Ghana.

The water sensors distributed by Charity: Water, will be installed on AFRIDEV pumps located in various communities selected for this purpose.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the partners – SkyFox Limited, CWSA, and Charity: Water – was signed recently and implementation is now in progress. The very first set of the water sensors has arrived and has been installed at Kramoman in the Amasaman District. The pumps, when installed, will capture relevant information for real time monitoring of the performance

of the boreholes, e.g. volume (litres) of water pumped and daily usage statistics.

The data collected will help reveal the fluctuations in water flow and consumption as well as significantly reduce downtime and repair time.

How it works: when there is a fault with the hand pumps, information will be transmitted to sensor within the shortest possible time. The managers of the technology will then inform the appropriate authority to enable them fix it as soon as possible. This eliminates the inconveniences where rural communities had to wait for weeks or months before getting their hand pumps repaired.

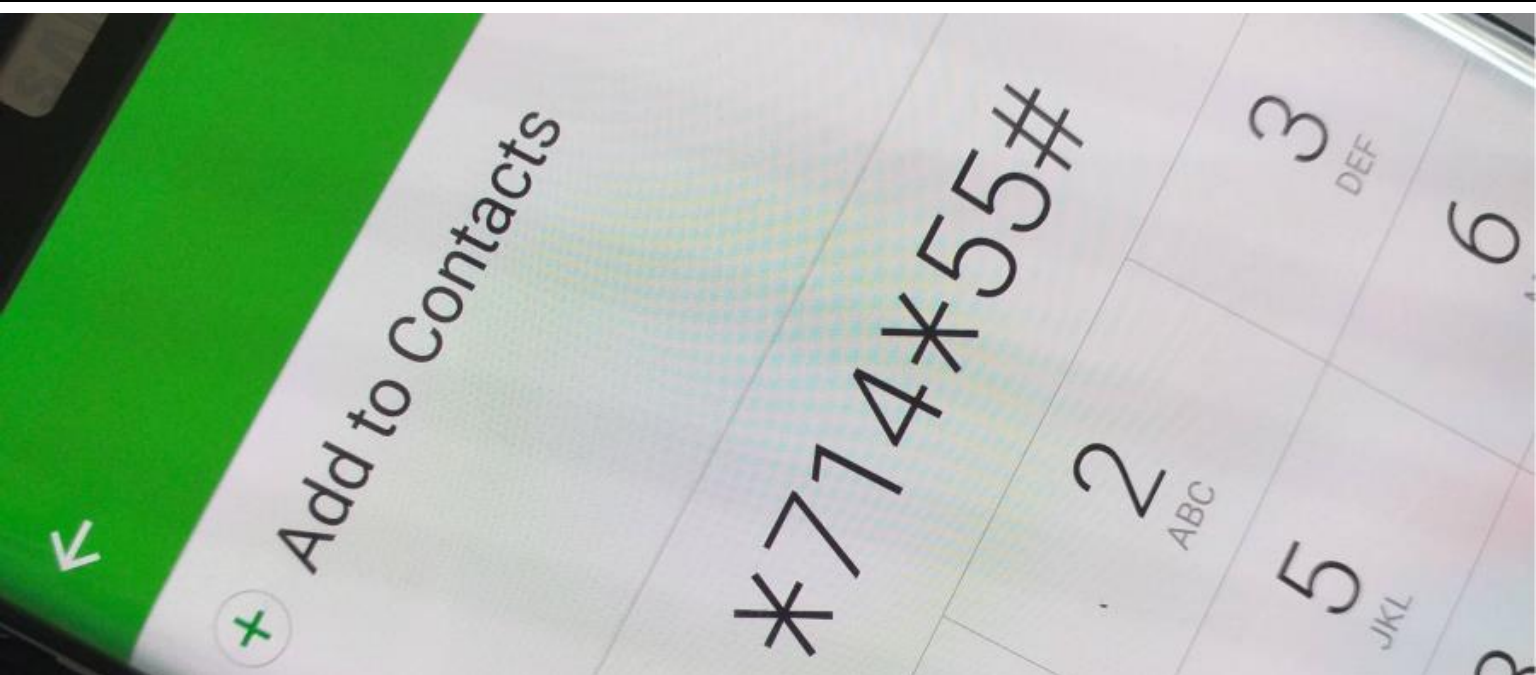
Continue on page 2

Continued from page 1

Besides, with the lack of accurate data on water consumption in Ghana, the data accrued will be made available to local governments and relevant agencies, to enable decision makers to understand water use in their own communities. It avails a chance for the country to produce highly trusted information on water in the rural community water supply scheme.

The sensor was developed by Charity Global Inc. known as Charity: Water, an independent grassroots organization based in New York City working to bring clean and safe drinking water to people in developing countries. In 2012, Charity: Water won a \$5 million technology grant from Google.org to develop a sensor that would monitor and transmit data on water flow from on the pumps it has supplied around the world.

SkyFox completes pilot for SMS self-billing system.



SkyFox limited, innovator of the SMS self-billing system and payments for water tariffs, ended a successful pilot self-billing program and intends to roll out the program fully after meeting all stakeholders' requirements.

The company, with the support of VIA water, a program of Aqua-for-All based in the Netherlands, developed the SMS Self-billing and payment platform that allows customers to send in their meter readings using the USSD short code *714*56#. The platform so far has over ten thousand (10,000) customers registered on it with six thousand (6,000) customers using the system for self-billing and payment of bills.

SkyFox, in collaboration with the Ghana Water Company Limited, implemented the pilot in the Greater Accra Region. Mr. Mumuni Samyuri, SkyFox Country Managing Director (Ghana), mentioned that the company opted for the SMS self-billing innovation because a baseline survey conducted in November 2017 revealed that the GWCL recorded an average of 50% non-revenue water (NRW) over a period of six (6) years. The survey results also indicated that about 57% of respondents confirmed the

existence of illegal connections which come as a result of collusion between customers and staff of GWCL. This, according to him, limits the amount of water available publicly, especially to under-served customers, and hence constrains the utility's financial inflows and relationship between consumers and GWCL.

With this innovation in place, SkyFox hopes to help consumers adapt to a fast, reliable and efficient way of receiving and paying bills without having to join long queues at the GWCL pay points. Also, it will help save the utility provider a significant amount of money in the long run.

The platform is still undergoing some reviews and system analysis to ensure compatibility with the e-payment platform developed by the Ghana Water Company Limited. After this is completed, an integration of the two systems will then be done to give customers a one-stop e-platform that will allow them receive their bills and pay instantly without the stress of having to wait monthly for GWCL to send bills.

Chief lauds SkyFox project in Wankayaw



Nana Kwame Chikpa II, Chief of Wankayaw

Nana Kwame Chikpa II, Chief of Wankayaw, near Dambai in the Krachi East Municipality, has lauded SkyFox Limited's efforts at bringing massive development to help alleviate poverty and improve standard of living in his community.

According to the Gyaasehene to the Chunke stool, he was excited about the fact that his community was chosen for the project and surprised with the progress so far.

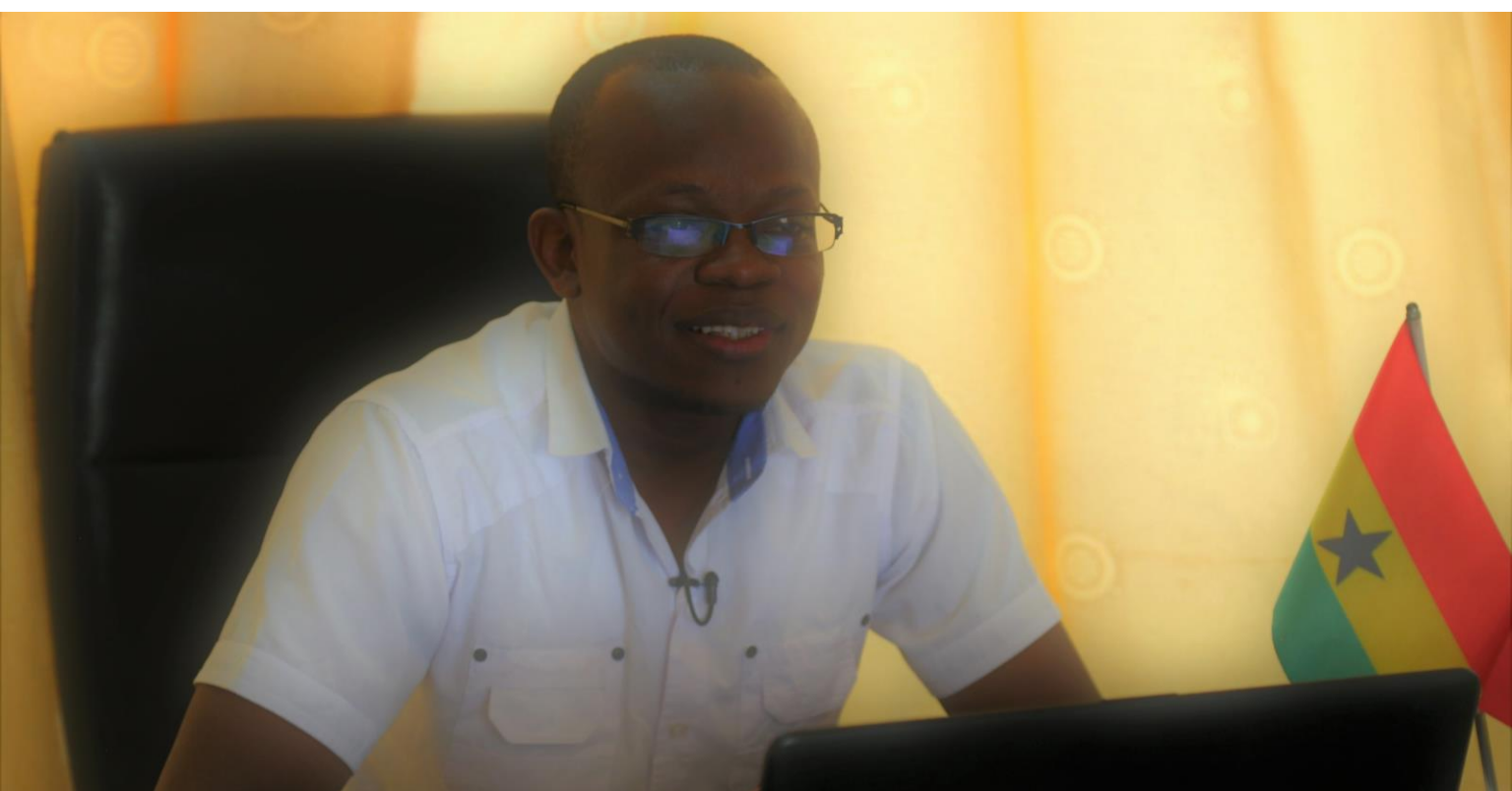
The Chief said what excites him most about the project was the fact that SkyFox Limited did not seem to be looking out for its own interest but rather the interest of the people living in the community therefore making the whole project a laudable initiative.

He added that farming is the main occupation of the people in Wankayaw and surrounding communities and the farmers, he said, relied gravely on the rains which usually start from May to September.

According to him harvesting is done once a year, therefore, in years that record little or no rain, very little is harvested eventually affecting the standard of living. After harvesting, he said, most of the people became idle until the following year.

When asked whether there had been any project of this magnitude in the community before, Nana Chikpa said this was the first of its kind that he was witnessing in the district. SkyFox limited has extended its Securing Water For Food (SWFF) Project to the Krachi East Municipality of the Oti Region, locating the project at Wankayaw, near Dambai, the Municipal capital. The site currently employs about 150 people, which includes farmers, security personnel and farm managers. The site is being used for aquaculture activities and crop production. These products, after harvest, will be sold and the gains divided amongst the farmers and beneficiaries.

SWFF Project feeds into Government flagship programmes – Municipal Planning Officer



Mr. Abass Ibrahim, Planning Officer, Krachi East Municipal Assembly

The Planning Officer for the Krachi East Municipal Assembly, Abass Ibrahim, has described the SWFF project as a perfect fit for the Ghana Government's development agenda.

Mr. Abass linked the project to four of the main flagship programmes of the current government. They are: Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Exports, Youth in Agriculture, and One District, One Factory.

He said aside the jobs that the project was creating, he was more excited about the exposure that the otherwise peasant farmers were gaining in modern farming methods. "The irrigation method for instance will help us with all-year-round production," he said.

The Planning Officer for the Krachi East Municipal Assembly, Abass Ibrahim, has described the SWFF project as a perfect fit for the Ghana Government's development agenda.

Mr. Abass linked the project to four of the main flagship programmes of the current government. They are: Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Exports, Youth in Agriculture, and One District, One Factory.

He said aside the jobs that the project was creating, he was more excited about the exposure that the otherwise peasant farmers were gaining in modern farming methods. "The irrigation method for instance will help us with all-year-round production," he said.

Contact for Further Information

The Deputy CEO, Partnerships & Resource Mobilization; SkyFox Limited, House No. C825/3: GA-027-2290; Mango Tree Avenue; Asylum Down; Accra.

Website: www.SkyFoxservices.com; Email: info@SkyFoxservices.com ; Mobile: +233 55 768 4987