

ABSTRACT

Ghana has licensed five international gateway operators which four are currently operational since year 2005. Even before the full liberalization of the international gateway operations in Ghana, some arbitrage was observed with some Internet Service Providers carrying international traffic to Ghana which was contrary to their licence scope. With full liberalisation, the situation of SIMboxing, suppressed Calling Line Identity (CLIs), Incorrect CLIs associated with international terminated calls to Ghana obviously surged due to arbitrage from year 2006.

Ghana as part of its main effort to restrict arbitrage makes test calls from all over the world with the lowest retail charges to identify especially the use of SIMboxing in the country. The results shows less than 25% of the test calls have terminated in Ghana with the Correct CLIs. There is a somewhat stronger positive correlation between Correct CLIs and International minutes legally terminated in the country. Also, spoofing remains a threat to our national mission to combat arbitrage and to our national security. Further to this, there have been insistent demands by users to know who is calling them and are especially alarmed when their attempts to return calls to numbers they missed calls on are not possible because those numbers are either incomplete, wrong or had suppressed CLIs.

Whereas SIMboxing can be restricted with national regulations, the long standing issue of Member States ensuring international outgoing calls transmit Correct CLIs to terminating Member States that demand so must be settled with International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs) currently under revision. We therefore call on the support and acceptance of additional Option provisions to Articles 2.19 and 3.6 as in the contribution 80 submitted by Egypt to the Council Working Group(CWG) for the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT).