

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Metro Manila  
Sixteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand fifteen.

[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10820 ]

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PROGRESSIVE BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7163, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8162

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* — Subject to the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to Progressive Broadcasting Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees, under Republic Act No. 7163, as amended by Republic Act No. 8162 entitled: "An Act Amending Section One of Republic Act Numbered Seventy-One Hundred Sixty Three, entitled: 'An Act Granting Progressive Broadcasting Corporation a Franchise to Construct, Install, Operate and Maintain, for Commercial Purposes, Radio Broadcasting Stations and Television Stations in Metro Manila and in Regions I, VI

and VII, and for Other Purposes,' for the Purpose of Extending its Operations Throughout the Philippines", to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, including the use of new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program, and distribution services and relay stations in the Philippines, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act.

*SEC. 2. Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.* – The stations or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations or other stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own privilege to use its assigned wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or the availability thereof.

*SEC. 3. Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).* – The grantee shall secure from the NTC the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations and facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without authorization from the NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of such authority.

*SEC. 4. Responsibility to the Public.* – The grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the government, through its broadcasting stations or facilities, to reach the population on important public issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not use its stations and facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation,

to the detriment of the public interest; or to incite, encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

**SEC. 5. *Right of Government.*** – A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster, or disturbance of peace and order: to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the grantee; to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare; or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of said stations or facilities during the period when these shall be so operated.

The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn any time after due process.

**SEC. 6. *Term of Franchise.*** – This franchise shall be in effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

**SEC. 7. *Acceptance and Compliance.*** – Acceptance of this new franchise shall be given in writing to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Public Services of the Senate, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance shall render the franchise void.

**SEC. 8. *Self-regulation by and Undertaking of the Grantee.*** – The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its stations: *Provided*, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion, or sedition; or

the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral: *Provided, further*, That willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

SEC. 9. *Warranty in Favor of National and Local Governments.* – The grantee shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments of the Philippines free from all claims, accounts, demands, or actions arising out of accidents or injuries, whether to property or to persons, caused by the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SEC. 10. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.* – The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts, and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines: *Provided*, That Congress shall be informed of any lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, sale, or assignment of franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder, or of the merger or transfer of the controlling interest of the grantee, within sixty (60) days after the completion of the transaction: *Provided, further*, That failure to report to Congress such change of ownership shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked: *Provided, finally*, That any person or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred, or assigned, shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions, and limitations of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Dispersal of Ownership.* – In accordance with the constitutional provision to encourage public participation in public utilities, the grantee shall offer to Filipino citizens at least thirty percent (30%) or a higher percentage that may hereafter be provided by law of its outstanding capital stock in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from the commencement of its operations: *Provided*, That in cases where public offer of shares is not applicable, establishment of cooperatives and other methods



