

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11481, July 30, 2020]

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTT-FIVE (25) TEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GLOBAL SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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 Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to First United Broadcasting Corporation (FUBC), presently known as Global Satellite Technology Services Inc., its successors or assignees and hereunder referred to as the grantee, to construct, install, operate, and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines, where frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or television broadcasting, including digital television system, through microwave, over the top (OTT), uplink services or whatever means, including the use of any new technology 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, including multichannel microwave transmission, repeater stations, translators, satellite transmission, and direct to home user satellite broadcast system, cable or community antennae television system (CATV). interactive system or station, transmitting, receiving, and switching stations, both for local and international services, lines, fiber optics, microwave, satellite, transmit and receive systems, control signals, audio and video systems, information service bureau, pay and pay per view television, video on demand and public information on demand services, multi disc read only memory, memory network delivery, packet and frame relay and electronic mail services and other value-added services and all other technologies as are presently available through technical advances or innovations in the future, as is, or are convenient to or essential to efficiently carry out the purpose of this franchise and to install radio communication facilities for the grantee's private use in its broadcast services, means of distribution including the use of all new technologies in broadcasting as are at present available or to be made available through technological advances or innovations in the future, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other broadcast distribution services, is hereby extended 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.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations or 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 any such authority.

The grantee shall not dispose or lease its facilities except to entities with radio or television broadcasting franchise: *Provided*, That the grantee shall inform and secure written authorization to proceed from the NTC, and report the transaction to the NTC within sixty (60) days after its completion. *Provided, farther*, That the NTC shall determine the corresponding sanction for any violation of this provision.

In case of violation/s of any of the provisions of this franchise, the NTC shall have the authority to revoke or suspend, after due process, the permits, or licenses issued by the NTC pursuant to the franchise. NTC may recommend to Congress the revocation of the franchise if there are any violation/s of the provisions of the franchise.

SEC. 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* - The grantee shall provide, free of charge, adequate public service time which is reasonable and sufficient to enable the government, through the broadcasting stations or facilities of the grantee, to reach the pertinent populations or portions thereof, on important public issues and relay important public announcements and warnings concerning public emergencies and calamities, as necessity, urgency or law may require; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; promote public participation; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; promote audience sensibility and empowerment including closed captioning; and not use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene or indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately fake information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of public interest; or to incite, encourage, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

Public service time referred herein shall be equivalent to a maximum aggregate of ten percent (10%) of the paid commercials or advertisements which shall be allocated based on need to the Executive and Legislative branches, the Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions, and international humanitarian organizations duly recognized by statutes: *Provided*, That the NTC shall increase the public service time in case of extreme emergency or calamity. The NTC shall issue rules and regulations for this purpose, the effectivity of which shall commence upon applicability with other similarly situated broadcast network franchise holders.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 8370, the grantee shall allot a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the daily total air time of each broadcasting network to child-friendly show/s within its regular programming.