

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11508, December 21, 2020 ]**

**AN ACT AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PHILIPPINE COLLECTIVEMEDIA CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9773, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRATING THE PHILIPPINE COLLECTIVEMEDIA CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9773 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* - Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to Philippine Collectivemedia Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees, a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations in the Philippines, where frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or television broadcasting, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, as well as 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."

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9773 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunication 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 by 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 a radio or television broadcasting franchise: *Provided*, That the grantee shall inform and secure written authorization from the NTC to proceed with such disposal or lease, and report the transaction to the NTC within sixty (60) days after its completion: *Provided, further*, That the NTC shall determine the corresponding sanction from any violation of this provision.

"The NTC shall have the authority to revoke or suspend, after due process, the permits or licenses of the grantee for any violation of the provisions of the franchise,

and may recommend to Congress the revocation of the franchise for any violation of the provision thereof."

SEC. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9773 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"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 grantee's broadcasting stations or facilities, 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 the 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 broadcast of obscene or 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.

"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, otherwise known as the "Children's Television Act of 1997," the grantee shall allot a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the daily total air time of each broadcasting network to child-friendly shows within its regular programming."

SEC. 4. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9773 is hereby amended as follows:

"SEC. 11. *Nontransferability 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, not merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts, whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such persons, firm, company, corporation or entity without prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines.

"Congress shall be informed of any sale, lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, or assignment of franchise, or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder, or the merger or transfer of the controlling interest of the grantee within sixty (60) days after the completion of the said transaction. Failure to report to Congress such change of ownership shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

"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."