

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10773, May 03, 2016]

**AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS
THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO EAGLE BROADCASTING
CORPORATION AS PROVIDED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7299**

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 Philippines Constitution and applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the franchise granted to Eagle Broadcasting Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee, and/or its successors and assignees 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 or are assigned for radio and/or television broadcasting, including digital television and/or radio systems, through microwave, satellite or the use of any new technological auxiliaries and/or facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years from November 3, 2018.

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 right to use its selected 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 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 the said 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 partimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process.

SEC. 6. *Term of Franchise.* – This franchise shall be in effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years, beginning on November 3, 2018, unless sooner 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 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 to 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 station: *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 willfull failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

SEC. 9. *Warranty in Favor of the 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, granting the usufruct of, sale or assignment of franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder within sixty (60) days after the completion of said 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