

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7831, December 08, 1994]

**AN ACT GRANTING ABC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNDER
BUSINESS NAME 'ASSOCIATED BROADCASTING COMPANY,' A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN
RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

*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, there is hereby granted to the Associated Broadcasting Company, its successors or assigns and hereunder referred to as the grantee, a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines with the corresponding technological auxiliary or facilities, special broadcast and other broadcast distribution services and relay stations.

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 avoid interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of authorized users, whether for broadcasting or telecommunications purposes without in any way diminishing its own right to use its selected wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception of signals.

SEC. 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission the appropriate permits and licenses for its stations and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without having been authorized by the Commission. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

Sec. 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* - The grantee shall provide reasonable public service time to enable the government, through the said broadcasting stations, to reach the population on important public issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; promote public participation such as in community programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not use its stations for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act, 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.* - The President of the Philippines, in times of rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and