

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6251, June 19, 1971]

AN ACT GRANTING SAN CARLOS PANGASINAN TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF SAN CARLOS, AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MALASIQUI, BAYAMBANG, BAUTISTA, ALCALA AND BASISTA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN.

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

SECTION 1. Subject to the conditions established in this Act and the provisions of Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and forty-six, as amended, and of the Constitution, applicable thereto, there is hereby granted to San Carlos Pangasinan Telephone Company, Inc., hereinafter called the grantee, its successors or assigns, for a period of twenty-five years from the approval of this Act, the right and privilege to construct, operate and maintain in the City of San Carlos, and the municipalities of Malasiqui, Bayambang, Bautista, Alcala and Basista, all in the Province of Pangasinan, a telephone system to carry on the business of the electrical transmission of conversations and signals in said city and municipalities. For this purpose, the grantee, its successors or assigns, is hereby authorized to use all streets and public thoroughfares in said city and municipalities for the construction, operation and maintenance of all apparatus, conductors and appliances necessary for the electrical transmission of conversations and signals, to erect poles, string wires, build conduits, lay cables and to construct, maintain and use such other approved and generally accepted means of electrical conduction in, on, over or under the public roads, highways, lands, bridges, streets, lanes and sidewalks of said city and municipalities, and overhead or underground lines or on the surface of the ground as may be necessary and best adapted to said transmission.

SEC. 2. All poles erected and all conduits constructed or used by the grantee shall be located in places designated by the city or municipal authorities concerned: *Provided*, That all poles erected and used by the grantee or its successors or assigns shall be of such appearance as not to disfigure the streets and highways, and the wires and cables carried by said poles and the underground cables shall be strung and laid in accordance with professional standards approved by the Public Service Commission; and said poles shall be of such height as to maintain the wires and cables stretched on the same at a height of at least fifteen feet above the level of the ground, and said wires and cables shall be so placed as not to imperil the public safety, in accordance with a plan approved by the Public Service Commission: *Provided, further*, That whenever twenty-five or more pairs of wires or other conductors are carried on one line of poles in any place of the poblacion of said city or municipalities of said province, said wires or conductors shall be placed in one cable, and that whenever more than eight hundred pairs of wires or other conductors are carried on one line of poles said wires or conductors, shall be placed

underground by the grantee, its successors or assigns, whenever ordered to do so by the Public Service Commission.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of erecting and placing the poles or other supports of such wires or other conductors or of laying' and maintaining underground said wires, cables or other conductors, it shall be lawful for the grantee, its successors or assigns, to make excavations or lay conduits in any of the public places, highways, streets, alleys, lanes, avenues, sidewalks or bridges in the said city and municipalities: *Provided, however,* That any public place, highway, street, alley, lane, avenue, sidewalk or bridge disturbed, altered or changed by reason of the erection of poles or other supports, or the laying underground of wires or other conductors, or of conduits, shall be repaired and restored to the satisfaction of the engineer of the city or province, and removing from the same all rubbish, dirt, refuse, or other material which may have been placed there or taken up in the erection of said poles or the laying of said underground conduits, leaving them in as good condition as they were before the work was done.

SEC. 4. Whenever any person has obtained permission to use any of the streets of the city or municipalities concerned for the purpose of removing any building or in the prosecution of any work or for any other cause whatsoever, making it necessary to raise or remove any of said wires or conduits which may obstruct or hinder the prosecution of said work, the said grantee, upon notice by the city or municipal board served upon said grantee, at least forty-eight hours in advance, shall raise or remove any of said wires or conduits which may hinder the prosecution of such work or obstruct the removal of said building, so as to allow the free and unobstructed passage of said building and the free and unobstructed prosecution of said work, and the person or entity at whose request the wires or poles or other structures have been removed, shall pay one-half of the actual cost of replacing the poles or raising the wires and other conductors or structures. The notice shall be in the form of a resolution duly adopted by the city or municipal board and served upon the grantee or his duly authorized representative or agent by a person competent to testify as witness in a civil action, and in case of refusal or failure of the grantee to comply with such notice, the city or municipal mayor, with the proper approval of the city or municipal board first had, shall order such wires or conduits to be raised or removed at the expense of the grantee for the purposes aforesaid.

SEC. 5. All apparatus and appurtenances used by the grantee, its successors or assigns, shall be modern and first class in every respect, and all telephone lines or installations used, operated and maintained in connection with this franchise by the grantee, its successors or assigns, shall be kept and maintained at all times in a satisfactory manner, so as to render an efficient and adequate telephone service, and it shall further be the duty of said grantee, its successors or assigns, whenever required to do so by the Public Service Commission to modify, improve, and change such telephone system for the electrical transmission of conversations and signals by means of electricity in such manner and to such extent as the progress of science and improvements in the method of electrical transmission of conversations and signals by means of electricity may make reasonable, and proper.

SEC. 6. The grantee, its successors or assigns, shall keep a separate account of the gross receipts of its telephone business, and shall furnish to the Auditor General and the Treasurer of the Philippines a copy of such account not later than the thirty-first day of July of each year for the twelve months preceding the first day of July.

SEC. 7. In consideration of the franchise and rights hereby granted, the grantee shall pay a franchise tax equal to five *per centum* of the gross earnings under this franchise, three *per centum* of which shall accrue to the National Government and two *per centum* to the city or municipality where the franchise is in operation.

SEC. 8. Within sixty days from the approval of this Act, the grantee shall file with the Public Service Commission its application for a certificate of public necessity and convenience. In case of failure to make said application within the period established, this franchise shall become null and void.

SEC. 9. The grantee shall not commence any construction whatever pursuant to this franchise without first obtaining a certificate of public necessity and convenience from the Public Service Commission of the form and character provided for in Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred and forty-six, as amended, specifically authorizing such construction. The grantee shall not exercise any right or privilege under this franchise without first having obtained such -certificate of public necessity and convenience from the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission shall have the power to issue such certificate of public necessity and convenience whenever it shall, after due hearing, determine that such construction or such exercise of the rights and privileges under this franchise is necessary and proper for the public convenience, and the Commission shall have the power in so approving to impose such conditions as to construction, equipment, maintenance, service or operation as the public convenience and interests may reasonably require, and such certificate shall state the date on which the grantee shall commence construction and the period within which the work shall be completed. In order to avail itself of the rights granted by such certificate of public necessity and convenience, the grantee shall file with the Public Service Commission, within such period as the said Commission shall fix, its written acceptance of the terms and conditions of this franchise and of the certificate, together with the document evidencing the fact that the deposit required in Section ten has been made. In the event that the grantee shall not commence the telephone service referred to in the certificate obtained and filed as herein provided within such period as the Public Service Commission shall have fixed, said Commission may declare said certificate null and void and the deposit made pursuant to Section ten of this Act forfeited to the National Government unless the grantee shall have been prevented from doing so by fortuitous cause or force *majeure*, usurped or military power, martial law, riot, uprising, or other inevitable cause: *Provided, however,* That if the grantee shall have been prevented by one or more of all such causes from commencing the telephone service within the period specified, the time during which it shall have been so prevented shall be added to said period: *Provided, further,* That failure on the part of the grantee to accept the conditions of this franchise and those imposed in the certificate of public necessity and convenience shall automatically void this franchise.

SEC. 10. Upon the written acceptance of the terms and conditions of this franchise, the grantee shall deposit in the National Treasury one thousand pesos or negotiable bonds of the Government of the Philippines or other securities approved by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications, of the face value of one thousand pesos, as an earnest of good faith in accepting this franchise and a guaranty that, within six months from the date of the granting by the Public Service Commission of a certificate of public necessity and convenience authorizing the construction and