

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11219, February 14, 2019 ]**

**AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS  
THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (CHURCH  
OF CHRIST) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4339, AS AMENDED BY  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7225**

*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 Philippine Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to Iglesia ni Cristo (Church of Christ) under Republic Act No. 4339, as amended by Republic Act No. 7225 and hereunder referred to as the grantee, to construct, establish, maintain, lease, purchase, operate and carry on a private telecommunications or electronic communications services throughout the Philippines and between the Philippines and other countries and territories, including outer space as public interest may warrant, for domestic and international telecommunications is hereby extended for twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act. For this purpose, the grantee is hereby bestowed the right to construct, establish, install, maintain, lease, purchase, and operate the corresponding transmitting and receiving stations, satellites, lines systems, networks, international gateways, local exchanges, and platforms as it may consider necessary, convenient or reasonable.

In this Act, the term "telecommunications" shall include "electronic telecommunications"; in addition, as used in this Act:

(a) Electronic communications network shall refer to: (1) a transmission system for conveyance by use of electrical, magnetic, or electromagnetic energy, of signals of any description; and (2) any of the following as are used, by the person providing the system and in association with it, for conveyance of the signals: (i) apparatus comprised in the system; (ii) an apparatus used for the switching and routing of the signals; and (iii) software and stored data.

(b) Electronic communications service shall refer to services that are principally conveyed by means of an electronic communications network of signals. It includes wired, wireless, fixed, cellular, and/or mobile, or integrated telecommunications, computer, electronic services, including value-added services, or technologies related to such service which are at present available or made available through technological advances or innovations in the future, and fixed and mobile 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, 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. *Authority of the National Telecommunications Commission.* The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction, installation and operation of its telecommunications systems or facilities. In issuing the certificate, the NTC shall have the power to impose such conditions relative to the construction, operation, maintenance, or service level of the telecommunications system. The NTC shall have the authority to regulate the construction and operation of its telecommunications system. The grantee shall not use any frequency in the radio spectrum without authorization from the NTC. Such certificate shall state the areas covered and the date the grantee shall commence the service. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of such authority, permit or license.

SEC. 4. *Excavation and Restoration Works.* - For the purpose of erecting and maintaining poles or other supports for said wires or other conductors for the purpose of laying and maintaining underground wires, cables or other conductors, it shall be lawful for the grantee, with the prior approval of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) or the local government unit (LGU) concerned, as may be appropriate, to excavate or lay conduits in any of the public places, roads, highways, streets, lanes, alleys, avenues, sidewalks, or bridges of the provinces, cities, or municipalities: *Provided, however,* That a public place, road, highway, street, lane, alley, avenue, sidewalk, or bridge disturbed, altered or changed by reason of erection of poles or other supports or the underground laying of wires, other conductors or conduits shall be repaired and replaced in workmanlike manner by said grantee, in accordance with the standards set by the DPWH or the LGU concerned. Should the grantee, after the ten (10)-day notice from the said authority, fail, refuse or neglect to repair or replace any part of public place, road, highway, street, lane, alley, avenue, sidewalk, or bridge disturbed, altered or changed by the said grantee, the DPWH or the LGU concerned shall have the right to have the same repaired and placed in good order and condition, to be charged against the grantee at double the amount spent for such repair or replacement.

SEC. 5. *Responsibility to the Public.* - The grantee shall conform to the ethics of honest enterprise and not use its stations or facilities for obscene or indecent transmission, or for the dissemination of deliberately false information, or willful misrepresentation, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

The grantee shall operate and maintain all its stations, lines, cables, systems, and equipment for the transmission and reception of messages, signals, and pulses in a satisfactory manner at all times and, as far as economical and practicable, modify, improve, or change such stations, lines, cables, systems, and equipment to keep abreast with the advances in science and technology.

The grantee shall improve and extend its services in areas not yet served, and in hazard-and-typhoon-prone areas that shall be determined by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in coordination with the NTC.

The grantee shall also improve and upgrade its equipment, facilities and services, in order to ensure effective compliance with the objectives of Republic Act No. 10639 or "The Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act".