

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11303, April 17, 2019]

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE DELTA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7723

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, the franchise granted to the Delta Broadcasting System, Inc., hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees, under Republic Act No. 7723, to construct, establish, maintain, and operate in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite, terrestrial or whatever means, including the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems, with, the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations in the Philippines, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years.

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. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications 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 from the NTC.

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 broadcasting stations or facilities of the grantee, to reach the pertinent population/s or portions thereof on important public issues and relay important public announcements and warnings concerning public emergencies and calamities, as necessity, urgency, or 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 through, but not limited to, closed captioning; and not use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting 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, Legislative, 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.

SEC. 5. *Compliance with Labor Standards*- — The grantee, its successors or assignees shall comply with the applicable labor standards under existing labor laws, rules and regulations and such other issuances as may be promulgated by the Department of Labor and Employment, taking into consideration the nature and peculiarities of the broadcast industry.

SEC. 6. *Right- of the. Government.* — The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn any time after due process.

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.

SEC. 7. *Term of Franchise.* - This franchise shall be in effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act. unless sooner revoked and cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

SEC. 8. *Self-regulation by and Undertaking of Grantee.* - The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its stations, but if any such speech, play, act or scene, or other matter should constitute a violation of the law or infringement of a private right, the grantee shall be free from any liability, civil or criminal, for such speech, play, act or scene, or other matter from its stations: *Provided*, That the grantee, during any broadcast and/or telecast shall not allow to be aired the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast and/or telecast 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 willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the revocation and 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, liabilities, demands, or actions arising out of accidents, causing injury to persons or damage to properties, during the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SEC. 10. *Commitment to Provide and Promote the Creation of Employment Opportunities.* - The grantee shall create employment opportunities and shall allow on-the-job trainings in their franchise operation: *Provided*, That priority shall be accorded to the residents where their principal office is located: *Provided, further*, That the grantee shall follow the applicable labor standards and allowance entitlement under existing labor laws, rules and regulations and similar issuances: *Provided, finally*, That the employment opportunities or jobs created shall be reflected in the General Information Sheet (GIS) to be submitted to Securities and Exchange Commission annually.

SEC. 11. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.* - The grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, 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 the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation, or entity without the prior approval of