

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10925, April 21, 2017]

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GM NETWORK, INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7252, ENTITLED " AN ACT GRANTING THE REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. 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. Republic Act No. 7252 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* - Subject to the provisions of the 1987 Constitution and applicable laws, rules and resolutions, the franchise granted to Republic Broadcasting System, Inc., presently known as GMA Network, Inc., hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees, under Republic Act No. 7252 to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite, terrestrial or whatever means, or the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding auxiliary, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations, and to install radio communication facilities for the grantee's private use in the broadcast services is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act.

"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 maybe established by law, without in any way diminishing its own right to use its assigned wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmissions 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 its stations and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without having been authorized by 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 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 and indelicate 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 ten percent (10%) of the paid commercials or advertisement 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 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 issuance 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.*- A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or serious 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 the stations or facilities of the grantee during the period when these shall be so operated.

"SEC. 7. *Terms 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 or cancelled. In the event the grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years, this franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked.

"SEC. 8. *Acceptance and Compliance.*- This franchise shall become effective upon acceptance given in writing by the grantee to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Legislative Franchise of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Public Services of the Senate, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance of the grantee shall render the franchise void.

"SEC. 9. *Tax Provisions.*-The grantee, its successors or assignees shall continue to be subject to all applicable taxes, duties, fees or charges and other impositions under Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as "The National Internal Revenue Code of 1997', as amended. Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as "The Local Government Code of 1991', as amended, and other applicable laws.