

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10889, July 17, 2016]

**AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS
THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CORONA INTERNATIONAL, INC.
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7398**

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 1987 Philippine Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to the Corona International, Inc., under Republic Act No. 7398, entitled "An Act Granting the Corona International Inc., a Franchise to Establish, Install, Maintain, Lease and Operate Wire and/or Wireless Telecommunications Systems, Lines, Circuits and Stations Throughout the Philippines for Domestic and International Communications, and For Other Purposes", hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assignees, to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, wire and/or wireless telecommunications systems including mobile cellular, paging, fiber optics, satellite transmit and receive systems, switches, and their value-added services such as transmission of voice, data, facsimile, control signs, audio and video, information services, and all other telecommunications system technologies as are at present available or will be made available through technological advances or innovations in the future; and/or construct, acquire, lease and operate, or manage transmitting and receiving stations, lines, cables, or systems in the Philippines, for domestic and international communications, 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 may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own right 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 (NTC).* – The grantee shall secure from the NTC a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity or the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction, installation, and operation of its telecommunications systems/facilities. In issuing the certificate, the NTC shall have the power to impose conditions relative to the construction, operation, maintenance, or service level of the telecommunications systems. The NTC shall have the authority to regulate the construction and operation of its telecommunications systems. 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 any such authority, permit or license.

SEC. 4. *Excavation and Restoration Works.* – For the purpose of erecting and maintaining poles or other supports for wires or other conductors for the purpose of laying and maintaining underground wires, cables, or other conductors, it shall be lawful for the grantee, its successors or assignees, 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 make excavations or lay conduits in any of the public places, roads, highways, streets, lanes, alleys, avenues, sidewalks, or bridges of the province, cities, and/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 the grantee, its successors or assignees, in accordance with the standards set by the DPWH or the LGU concerned. Should the grantee, its successors or assignees, after the ten (10)-day notice from the said authority, fail, refuse or neglect to repair or replace any part of a public place, road, highway, street, lane, alley, avenue, sidewalk, or bridge disturbed, altered, or changed by the grantee, its successors or assignees, then the DPWH or the LGU concerned shall have the right to have the same repaired and placed in good order and condition at double expense to be charged against the grantee, its successors or assignees.

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

The grantee shall provide basic or enhanced telephone service in any city and/or municipality in the Philippines where it has an approved Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a local exchange service, without discrimination to any applicant therefor, in the order of the date of their applications, up to the limit of the capacity of its local telephone exchange and, should the demand for the telephone service at any time increase beyond the capacity thereof, the grantee shall increase the same to meet the demand: *Provided,* That in case the total demand to be satisfied by the expansion is less than the smallest viable local exchange available in the market as determined by the NTC, the grantee shall not be obliged to furnish such service unless the applicant for telephone service defrays the actual expenses for the installation of the telecommunications apparatus necessary for the services and in such case, the NTC may extend the time within which the grantee shall furnish such service.

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.

SEC. 6. *Rates for Services.* – The charges and rates for telecommunications services of the grantee, except the rates and charges on those that may hereafter be declared or considered as nonregulated services, whether flat rates or measured