

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7297, March 26, 1992 ]**

**AN ACT GRANTING ZOE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A  
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN  
RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE  
ISLAND OF LUZON AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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, there is hereby granted to ZOE Broadcasting Network, Inc., its successors or assigns, hereunder referred to as the grantee, a franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest radio and television stations in the island of Luzon 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 its broadcast services.

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 the other existing stations or stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own right to use its selected wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's and/or the availability thereof.

SEC. 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission 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 Commission.

SEC. 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* - The grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the Government, through the said broadcasting stations, to reach the population on important public issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; promote public participation such as in community programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not use its station for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene, or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation or to the detriment of the public interest, or to incite, encourage, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

SEC. 5. *Right of Government.* - The President of the Philippines, in times of rebellion, public peril calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order, may temporarily take over the stations of the grantee, temporarily suspend

the operation of any station in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the Government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of the said stations during the period when they shall be so operated.

SEC. 6. *Term of Franchise.* - This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of 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. 7. *Acceptance and Compliance.* - Acceptance of this franchise shall be given in writing sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance shall render the franchise void.

SEC. 8. *Tax Provisions.* - The grantee, its successors or assigns shall be liable to pay the same taxes on its real estate, buildings and personal property, exclusive of this franchise, as other persons or corporations are now or hereafter may be required by law to pay. In addition thereto, the grantee, its successors or assigns shall pay a franchise tax equivalent to three percent (3%) of all gross receipts of the radio/television business transacted under this franchise by the grantee, its successors or assigns and the said percentage shall be in lieu of all taxes on this franchise or earnings thereof: Provided, That the grantee, its successors or assigns shall continue to be liable for income taxes payable under Title II of the National Internal Revenue Code pursuant to Section 2 of Executive Order No. 72 unless the latter enactment is amended or repealed, in which case the amendment or repeal shall be applicable thereto.

The grantee shall file the return with and pay the tax due thereon to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue or his duly authorized representative in accordance with the National Internal Revenue Code and the return shall be subject to audit by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

SEC. 9. *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 and/or telecast 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: Provided, That the grantee, during any broadcast and/or telecast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast 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; and willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

SEC. 10. *Warranty in Favor of National and Local Government.* - The grantee shall hold the national, provincial and municipal governments of the Philippines harmless from all claims, accounts, demands or actions arising out of accidents or injuries, whether to property or to persons, caused by the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SEC. 11. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, etc.* - The grantee shall not lease, transfer,