

H. No. 5297

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
 Metro Manila
 Tenth Congress
 Third Regular Session



Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8636]

AN ACT GRANTING THE GENERAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PROVINCES OF QUEZON, BATANGAS AND LAGUNA; MUNICIPALITIES OF PASACAO, LIBMANAN AND CABUSAO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR; AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACALE, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE

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 the General Telephone

System, Inc., hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, establish, install, maintain and operate for commercial purposes and in the public interest, local exchange network, including public calling stations or pay telephone stations or wireless local loop and for such purpose provide basic telephone service or other means related to the foregoing now known to science or which in the future may be developed, in the provinces of Quezon, Batangas and Laguna; municipalities of Pasacao, Libmanan and Cabusao, Province of Camarines Sur; and the Municipality of Paracale, Province of Camarines Norte, for public domestic telecommunications.

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 existing stations or other 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 services and/or the availability thereof. In no way shall the operations of the grantee, nor the radiated power of its stations or facilities, exceed that required to cover the area where it is allowed to operate.

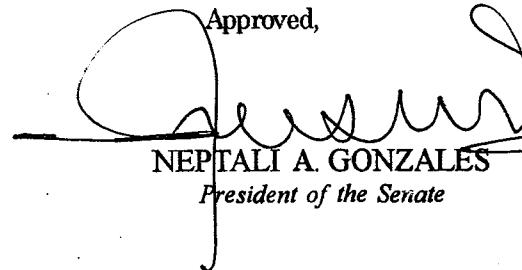
SEC. 3. *Authority of the National Telecommunications Commission.* - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, a certificate of public convenience and necessity or the appropriate permits and licenses for the location, construction, installation and operation of its telecommunications systems. In issuing the certificate, the Commission shall have the power to impose such conditions relative to the construction, operation, maintenance, or service level of the telecommunications system. The Commission 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 having been authorized by the Commission. Such certificate shall state the areas covered and date the grantee shall commence the service. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority, permits or licenses.

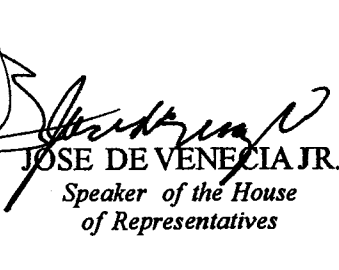
and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SEC. 19. *Reportorial Requirement.* - The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on its compliance with the terms and conditions of its franchise and on its operations within sixty (60) days from the end of every year.

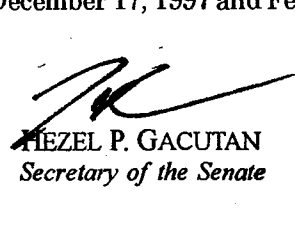
SEC. 20. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general publication.

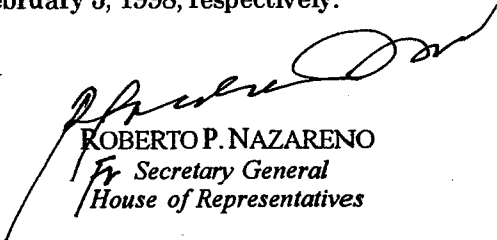
Approved,


NEPTALI A. GONZALES
President of the Senate


JOSE DE VENECIA JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on December 17, 1997 and February 5, 1998, respectively.


HAZEL P. GACUTAN
Secretary of the Senate


ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved:

FIDEL V. RAMOS
President of the Philippines

Lapsed into law on MAY 17 1998
without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article V, Section 27 (1) of the Constitution

0