



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5558

BY REPRESENTATIVES LOBREGAT, ALVAREZ (F.) AND MARCOLETA, PER
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 209

**AN ACT GRANTING THE GOLDEN NATION NETWORK INC. A
FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION
BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* – Subject to the
2 provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there
3 is hereby granted to Golden Nation Network Inc., hereunder referred to as the
4 grantee, its successors or assignees, a franchise to construct, install, establish,
5 operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio
6 and/or television broadcasting stations throughout the Philippines, where
7 frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or television
8 broadcasting, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite
9 or whatever means, including the use of any new technology in television and
10 radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities,
11 special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay
12 stations.

1 SEC. 2. *Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.* – The stations
2 or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as
3 will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or
4 frequencies of existing stations or other stations which may be established by
5 law, without in any way diminishing its own privilege to use its assigned
6 wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception
7 thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or the
8 availability thereof.

9 SEC. 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications*
10 *Commission.* – The grantee shall secure from the National
11 Telecommunications Commission (NTC), the appropriate permits and licenses
12 for the construction and operation of its stations or facilities and shall not use
13 any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without authorization from the
14 NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant
15 of any such authority.

16 The grantee shall not dispose or lease its facilities except to entities with
17 radio or television broadcasting franchise: *Provided*, That the grantee shall
18 inform and secure written authorization to proceed from the NTC, and report
19 the transaction to the NTC within sixty (60) days after its completion:
20 *Provided, further*, That the NTC shall determine the corresponding sanction
21 for any violation of this provision.

22 SEC. 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* – The grantee shall provide
23 adequate public service time to enable the government, through the said
24 broadcasting stations or facilities, to inform the population on important public
25 issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; assist in the
26 performance of the functions of public information and education; conform to
27 the ethics of honest enterprise; and to refrain from broadcasting obscene and
28 indecent language, speech, act or scene, or disseminating deliberately false

1 information or willful misrepresentation to the detriment of the public interest;
2 or inciting, encouraging, or assisting in subversive or treasonable acts.

3 SEC. 5. *Right of the Government.* – The radio spectrum is a finite
4 resource that is part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege
5 conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn any time after
6 due process.

7 A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in
8 times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster, or
9 disturbance of peace and order: to temporarily take over and operate the
10 stations or facilities of the grantee; to temporarily suspend the operation of any
11 station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare;
12 or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the
13 government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of the stations
14 or facilities during the period when these shall be so operated.

15 SEC. 6. *Term of Franchise.* – This franchise shall be in effect for a
16 period of twenty-five (25) years, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This
17 franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to
18 comply with any of the following conditions:

19 (a) Commence operations within one (1) year from the approval of its
20 operating permit by the NTC;

21 (b) Commence operations within three (3) years from the effectivity of
22 this Act; and

23 (c) Operate continuously for two (2) years.

24 SEC. 7. *Acceptance and Compliance.* – Acceptance of this franchise
25 shall be given in writing to the Congress of the Philippines, through the
26 Committee on Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the
27 Committee on Public Services of the Senate, within sixty (60) days from
28 the effectivity of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall

1 exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance of this franchise
2 shall render it void.

3 SEC. 8. *Bond.* – The grantee shall file a bond with the NTC, in the
4 amount that the NTC shall determine, to guarantee compliance with and
5 fulfillment of the conditions under which this franchise is granted. If, after
6 three (3) years from the date of the approval of its permit by the NTC, the
7 grantee shall have fulfilled the same, the bond shall be released by the NTC.
8 Otherwise, the bond shall be forfeited in favor of the government and the
9 franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

10 SEC. 9. *Self-regulation by and Undertaking of the Grantee.* – The
11 grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or
12 scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its stations: *Provided*, That the
13 grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off the airing of speech, play, act or
14 scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose
15 and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein or the
16 theme thereof is indecent or immoral: *Provided, further*, That willful failure to
17 do so shall constitute a valid cause for the revocation and cancellation of this
18 franchise.

19 SEC. 10. *Warranty in Favor of the National and Local Governments.* –
20 The grantee shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal
21 governments of the Philippines free from all claims, liabilities, demands, or
22 actions arising out of accidents causing injury to persons or damage to
23 properties during the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

24 SEC. 11. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.*
25 – The grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, nor assign
26 this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person,
27 firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge
28 with any other corporation or entity, nor shall transfer the controlling interest

1 of the grantee, whether as a whole or in parts, and whether simultaneously or
2 contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation, or entity
3 without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines: *Provided*, That
4 Congress shall be informed of any sale, lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, or
5 assignment of franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder, or of
6 the merger or transfer of the controlling interest of the grantee, within sixty
7 (60) days after the completion of said transaction: *Provided, further*, That
8 failure to report to Congress such change of ownership shall render the
9 franchise *ipso facto* revoked: *Provided, finally*, That any person or entity to
10 which this franchise is sold, transferred, or assigned, shall be subject to the
11 same conditions, terms, restrictions, and limitations of this Act.

12 SEC. 12. *Dispersal of Ownership.* — In accordance with the
13 constitutional provision to encourage public participation in public utilities, the
14 grantee shall offer to Filipino citizens at least thirty percent (30%) or a higher
15 percentage that may hereafter be provided by law of its outstanding capital
16 stock in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from
17 the commencement of its operations: *Provided*, That in cases where public
18 offer of shares is not applicable, establishment of cooperatives and other
19 methods of encouraging public participation by citizens and corporations
20 operating public utilities must be implemented. Noncompliance therewith
21 shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

22 SEC. 13. *General Broadcast Policy Law.* — The grantee shall comply
23 with and be subject to the provisions of a general broadcast policy law, which
24 Congress may hereafter enact.

25 SEC. 14. *Reportorial Requirement.* — The grantee shall submit an
26 annual report to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on
27 Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
28 Public Services of the Senate, on its compliance with the terms and conditions

1 of the franchise and on its operations on or before April 30 of every year
2 during the term of its franchise. The reportorial compliance certificate issued
3 by Congress shall be required before any application for permit or certificate is
4 accepted by the NTC.

5 SEC. 15. *Fine.* – Failure of the grantee to submit the requisite annual
6 report to Congress shall be penalized by a fine in the amount of five hundred
7 pesos (P500.00) per working day of noncompliance. The fine shall be
8 collected separately by the NTC distinct from the penalties it imposes for
9 noncompliance of its own reportorial requirements.

10 SEC. 16. *Equality Clause.* – Except for taxes and customs duties, any
11 advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing
12 franchises, or which may hereafter be granted for radio and/or television
13 broadcasting, upon prior review and approval of Congress, shall become part
14 of this franchise and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the
15 herein grantee: *Provided*, That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect
16 the provisions of a broadcasting franchise pertaining to the term, the type of
17 service, or the territorial coverage of the franchise.

18 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of
19 this Act are held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain
20 valid.

21 SEC. 18. *Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause.* – This franchise
22 shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress of the
23 Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as
24 an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided.

25 SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
26 rules and regulations or parts or provisions thereof which are not consistent
27 with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 20. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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