



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

20 MAR -4 P3:01

SENATE

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S. Ct. Res. No. 8

Introduced by Senators MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID, SHERWIN GATCHALIAN,
JOEL VILLANUEVA, MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY, JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI,
SONNY ANGARA, RALPH G. RECTO, GRACE POE, and EMMANUEL "MANNY" PACQUIAO

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS TO ALLOW ABS-CBN
BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND SKY CABLE CORPORATION TO
OPERATE PENDING THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE RENEWAL OF
THEIR RESPECTIVE FRANCHISES BY THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONAL
AUTHORITY BY THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

1 WHEREAS, by virtue of Republic Act No. 7966, ABS-CBN Broadcasting
2 Corporation was "granted a franchise to construct, operate and maintain, for
3 commercial purposes and in the public interest, television and radio broadcasting
4 stations in and throughout the Philippines, through microwave, satellite or whatever
5 means including the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems,
6 with the corresponding technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast and
7 other broadcast distribution services and relay stations" for twenty-five (25) years
8 or until May 4, 2020;

9 WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 7969, SKY Cable Corporation (formerly
10 Central CATV, Inc.), was granted a franchise "to construct, establish, install,
11 operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest,
12 community antennae television systems" for twenty-five (25) years or until May 4,
13 2020.

14 WHEREAS, as early as the 16th Congress, an attempt had been made to
15 renew the franchise of ABS-CBN through the filing of House Bill No. 4997. However,
16 this did not get past the committee level;

1 WHEREAS, this 18th Congress, several bills in both houses have been filed all
2 seeking for the extension of ABS-CBN's and SKY Cable's franchises for another 25
3 years. The bills pending in House of Representatives remain at the committee level;

4 WHEREAS, the non-renewal of ABS-CBN's franchise will result in the loss of
5 thousands of jobs as the network has over 11,017 employees including its artists,
6 independent contractors, content creators who are spread out in ABS-CBN's
7 information and entertainment group of companies, including SKY Cable;

8 WHEREAS, the removal of a market leader such as ABS-CBN would have a
9 significant impact, not only on competition within the broadcasting industry, but
10 also on the economy as a whole. In fact, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto
11 Pernia was quoted as saying that the non-renewal of the franchise of ABS-CBN may
12 affect investor confidence and get in the way of promoting diversity in the economy
13 and fostering competition;

14 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to devise government interventions to
15 ensure that ABS-CBN and SKY Cable will continue their operations pending
16 Congress' deliberations of the corporations' franchise renewal;

17 WHEREAS, there have been numerous instances where franchise holders –
18 GMA Network, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Associated
19 Broadcasting Company (TV5), among others – were allowed to operate under the
20 terms of their existing franchise even after its lapse and pending its renewal. In the
21 case of CBCP, it was allowed to operate for a period of almost two years from the
22 lapse of its franchise in 2017 until its renewal in 2019;

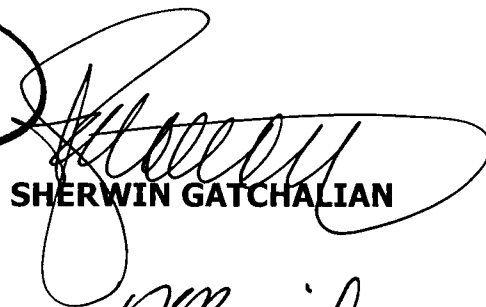
23 WHEREAS, during the hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Services
24 last February 24, 2020, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra stated that Congress,
25 through a concurrent resolution, could direct the National Telecommunications
26 Commission to provide provisional authority to operate pending deliberation on bills
27 on the network's franchise renewal before the Congress. Secretary Guevarra noted
28 that Congress may not be able to act on pending bills before expiration of the
29 franchise on May 4, 2020, given that Congress only has two weeks remaining
30 before adjournment of session;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, THE
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, to express the sense of the Congress
3 that ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation and SKY Cable Corporation be allowed to
4 operate under the terms of their existing franchises pending final determination of
5 the renewal of their franchises by the 18th Congress and for the National
6 Telecommunications Commission to issue ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation and
7 SKY Cable Corporation the appropriate provisional authority.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID



SHERWIN GATCHALIAN



JOEL VILLANUEVA



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY



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