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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 322

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE OPERATIONS OF ABS-CBN CORPORATION TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ITS FRANCHISE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7966

1 WHEREAS, on 30 March 1995, Republic Act No. 7966 or the law granting ABS-
2 CBN Corporation a 25-year franchise to construct, install, operate and maintain
3 television and radio broadcasting stations in the Philippines was passed into law;

4 WHEREAS, a month before its expiration, on 10 February 2020, a *quo warranto*
5 case¹ was filed against the grantee, ABS-CBN Corporation, on its alleged violations in
6 its legislative franchise, ultimately seeking the revocation of the same;

7 WHEREAS, in a public statement, ABS-CBN stressed that no law has been
8 violated and all their dealings are well within the provisions of their franchise²;

9 WHEREAS, no less than Article XII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution
10 mandates that no "...such franchise or right be granted except under the condition
11 that it shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress when the
12 common good so requires";

13 WHEREAS, ABS-CBN's own franchise provides that it shall be subject to
14 amendment, alteration or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public
15 interest so requires";³

¹ See <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/releases/1034298>

² <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/10/20/read-statement-of-abs-cbn-on-osgs-quo-warranto-petition-we-did-not-violate-the-law>

³ R.A. 7966, Section 14.

16 WHEREAS, the power to amend, alter, or repeal is corollary to the power to
17 review the compliance of a grantee with the terms and conditions of its franchise;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved,
19 to directing the Senate Committee on Public Services to look into, in aid of legislation,
20 on the operations of ABS-CBN Corporation to determine compliance with the terms
21 and conditions of its franchise under Republic Act No. 7966.

Adopted.


GRACE POE