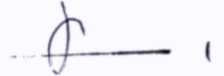


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SENATE

S. Ct. Res. No. 7

RECEIVED BY



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 D. PACQUIAO

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS TO ALLOW ABS-CBN CORPORATION TO OPERATE PENDING THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE RENEWAL OF ITS FRANCHISE 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 was "granted a
2 franchise to construct, operate and maintain, for commercial purposes and in the
3 public interest, television and radio broadcasting stations in and throughout the
4 Philippines, through microwave, satellite or whatever means including the use of any
5 new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding
6 technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast and other broadcast
7 distribution services and relay stations" for twenty-five (25) years or until May 4,
8 2020;

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

12 WHEREAS, this 18th Congress, several bills in both houses have been filed all
13 seeking for the extension of ABS-CBN's franchise for another 25 years. The bills
14 pending in House of Representatives remain at the committee level;

15 WHEREAS, the non-renewal of ABS-CBN's franchise will result in the loss of
16 thousands of jobs as the network has over 11,000 employees including its artists,
17 independent contractors, content creators who are spread out in ABS-CBN's
18 information and entertainment group of companies;

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

7 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to devise government interventions to
8 ensure that ABS-CBN will continue its operations pending Congress' deliberations of
9 the network's franchise renewal;

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

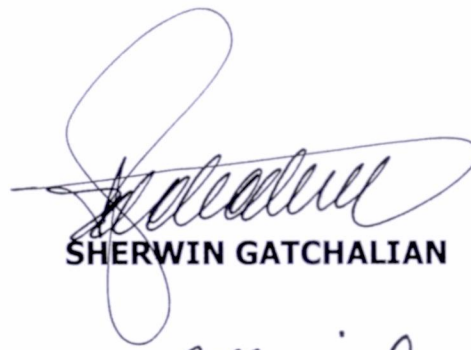
16 WHEREAS, during the hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Services last
17 February 24, 2020, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra stated that Congress,
18 through a concurrent resolution, could direct the National Telecommunications
19 Commission to provide provisional authority to operate pending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

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, THE
25 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, to express the sense of the Congress
26 that ABS-CBN Corporation should be allowed to operate under the terms of its existing
27 franchise pending final determination of the renewal of its franchise by the 18th
28 Congress and for the National Telecommunications Commission to issue ABS-CBN
29 Corporation the appropriate provisional authority.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID



SHERWIN GATCHALIAN



JOEL VILLANUEVA



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI



SONNY ANGARA



RALPA RANO



grace Poe



EMMANUEL PAZQUIAS