AN ACT GRANTING THE NOTRE DAME BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO FOR RELIGIOUS, EDU...

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1450, June 14, 1956

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

SECTION 1. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, as well as of Act Numbered Three thousand eight hundred forty-six, entitled "An Act providing for regulation of radio stations and radio communications in the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes;" Act Numbered Three thousand nine hundred ninety-seven known as the Radio Broadcasting Law; Commonwealth Act Numbered One hundred forty-six, known as the Public Service Act, and their amendments, and other applicable laws, not inconsistent with this Act, the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corporation is hereby granted a franchise to construct, maintain and operate for religious, educational and cultural as well as for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio broadcasting stations in the Province of Cotabato.

SEC. 2. This franchise shall continue for a period of twenty-five years from the date the said stations shall. be put in operation, and is granted upon the express condition that the same shall be void unless the construction of at least one station be begun within one year from the date of approval of this Act and be completed within two years from said date.

SEC. 3. This franchise is likewise made upon the express condition that the grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the Government, thru its stations, to reach the population on important issues, shall assist in the functions of public information and education, shall conform to the ethics of honest enterprise, and shall not use its stations for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, or to the detriment of the public health, or to incite, encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

SEC. 4. The grantee's radio broadcasting stations shall not be put in actual operation until the Secretary Public Works and Communications shall have allotted the grantee the frequency and wave lengths to be under this franchise and issued to the grantee license for such use.

SEC. 5. The radio broadcasting stations of the grantee shall be so constructed and operated and the wave lengths so selected as to avoid interference with existing radio stations and to permit of the expansion of the grantee's services.

SEC. 6. A special right is reserved to the President of the Philippines in time of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, disaster or disturbance of peace or order, to cause the closing of said stations or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any department of the Government without compensating the grantee for the use of said stations during the period when they shall be so operated.

SEC. 7. The grantee shall be liable to pay the same taxes, unless exempted therefrom, on its real estate, buildings,

and personal property, exclusive of the franchise, as other persons or corporations are now or hereafter may be required by law to pay. It shall be liable further to pay all other taxes as provided in the National Internal Revenue Code by reason of this franchise.

SEC. 8. The franchise hereby granted shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires.

SEC. 9. Acceptance of this franchise shall be given in writing by the grantee within six months after the approval of this Act. When so accepted, the grantee shall be empowered to exercise the privileges granted thereby,

SEC. 10. The grantee shall file a bond in the amount of five thousand pesos to guarantee the full compliance with and fulfillment of the conditions under which this franchise is granted. If after two years from the date of acceptance of this franchise, the grantee shall have fulfilled said conditions or soon thereafter as the grantee shall have fulfilled the same, the bond aforesaid shall be cancelled by the Secretary of Public Works and Communications.

SEC. 11. The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play or other matter to be broadcast from its stations; but if any such speech, play or other matter should constitute a violation of the law or infringement of a private right, the grantee shall be free from any liability, civil or criminal, for such speech, play or other matter: Provided, That the grantee, during any broadcast may cut off from the air the speech, play or other matter being broadcast if the tendency is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition, or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral.

SEC. 12. The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell or assign this franchise nor the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other company or corporation organized for the same purpose, without the approval of the Congress of the Philippines first had. Any corporation to which this franchise may be sold, transferred, or assigned shall be subject to the corporation laws of the Philippines now existing or hereafter enacted, and any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred, or assigned shall be subject to all conditions, terms, restrictions and limitations of this franchise as fully and completely and to the same extent as if the franchise had been originally granted to the said person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity.

SEC. 13. This franchise shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SEC. 14. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 14, 1956.

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