

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3353**



Introduced by **Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Interactive Broadcast Media Inc. (DWWW) is known for its news, public affairs, health & wellness programs in the morning, oldies music for the rest of the day, and religious programs such as *Oras ng Katotohanan*, *Sermon & Competidum of the Catholic Church*, and the daily *Angelus* at 6pm.

The aim of this legislative measure is to again renew the franchise given by the government to the Interactive Broadcast Media, Inc. so that it could continue its service to the nation through their expert broadcasting of news, public assistance to communities, and religious programs.

Immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District, Northern Samar

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AN ACT
RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE INTERACTIVE BROADCAST MEDIA, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 8210, TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THIS ACT

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

Section 1. The franchise granted to the Interactive Broadcast Media, Inc. under Republic Act 8210 is hereby renewed to another twenty-five (25) years from the date of approval of this Act.

Sec. 2. Subject to the provisions of Sec. 24 (c) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the provisions of Executive Order No. 72, all other provisions, terms and conditions contained in Republic Act 8210 are hereby made integral parts of this Act.

Sec. 3. Section 12 & Section 13 of Republic Act 8210 are hereby amended as follows:

"SECTION 12. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, etc.* - [~~The grantee shall not lease, transfer grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired there under to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines.~~] ANY PERSON OR ENTITY TO WHICH THIS FRANCHISE IS SOLD, TRANSFERRED, OR ASSIGNED SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME CONDITIONS, TERMS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS ACT.

Section 13. Dispersal of Ownership. — In accordance with constitutional provisions to encourage public participation in public utilities, the grantee shall offer at least thirty per centum (30%) of its outstanding capital stock or a higher percentage that may hereafter be provided by law in any securities exchange in the Philippines. ~~[within five (5) years from the time it has achieved the status of a national broadcasting network. A "national broadcasting network" is hereby defined as one that operates three or more radio and/or television stations. Noncompliance therewith shall render the franchise ipso facto revoked.]~~"

Sec. 4. In addition to the terms and conditions of the franchise as provided in Republic Act No. 8210, the Interactive Broadcast Media, Inc. shall submit an annual report of its operations to the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 5. The franchise herein granted shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress when the common good so requires.

Sec. 6. The herein grantee shall comply with and be subject to the provisions of a general broadcast policy law that may hereafter be enacted.

Sec. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,