

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 516

Submitted by the Committee on Legislative Franchises on July 23, 2026.

Re: House Bill No. 10208

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 9249

Sponsors: Representatives Jeffrey P. Ferrer and Lorenz R. Defensor

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Legislative Franchises to which was referred House Bill No. 9249, introduced by Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9214, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES"”

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 10208, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9214, ENTITLED " AN ACT GRANTING THE NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES"”

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 9249 with Representatives Lorenz R. Defensor, Jeffrey P. Ferrer, Dale B. Corvera, Manuel “Wowo” L. Fortes, Jr., Alfredo D. Maraño III, Antonino B. Roman III, Jose Arturo S. Garcia, Jr., Sancho Fernando “Ando” F. Oaminal, Emmarie “Lolypop” Quano- Dizon, Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Mark

Anthony Santos, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Jose Manuel "JM" F. Lagdameo, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Brian Poe, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Antonio A. Ferrer, Christopher Sheen P. Gonzales, Juan Carlos "Arjo" C. Atayde, Karen Hope F. Garcia, Edwin Ongchuan, Mark Cholo I. Violago, Gil "KabarangayJr." A. Acosta, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Janette L. Garin, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Antonio L. Tinio, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Girlie E. Veloso, Bernadette G. Escudero, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Patricia C. Calderon, Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Arthur C. Yap, Presley C. De Jesus, Sergio C. Dagooc, and Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JEFFREY P. FERRER', with a stylized flourish underneath.

REP. JEFFREY P. FERRER

Chairperson

Committee on Legislative Franchises

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **10208**
(In substitution of House Bill No. 9249)

Introduced by Representatives Lorenz R. Defensor, Jeffrey P. Ferrer, Dale B. Corvera, Manuel “Wowo” L. Fortes, Jr., Alfredo D. Maraño III, Antonino B. Roman III, Jose Arturo S. Garcia, Jr., Sancho Fernando “Ando” F. Oaminal, Emmarie “Lolypop” Quano- Dizon, Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Mark Anthony Santos, Monique Yazmin Maria Q. Lagdameo, Jose Manuel “JM” F. Lagdameo, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Brian Poe, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Antonio A. Ferrer, Christopher Sheen P. Gonzales, Juan Carlos “Arjo” C. Atayde, Karen Hope F. Garcia, Edwin Ongchuan, Mark Cholo I. Violago, Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Janette L. Garin, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Antonio L. Tinio, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Girlie E. Veloso, Bernadette G. Escudero, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Patricia C. Calderon, Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Arthur C. Yap, Presley C. De Jesus, Sergio C. Dagooc, and Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando

AN ACT

RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9214, ENTITLED " AN ACT GRANTING THE NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

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

- 1 **Section 1. Nature and Scope of Franchise.**– Subject to the provisions of the
2 Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to
3 Newsounds Broadcasting Network, Inc., hereunder referred to as the Grantee, its
4 successors or assignees, under Republic Act No. (RA) 9214, to construct, install,
5 establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest,
6 radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines, where frequencies and/or
7 channels are still available for radio and/or television broadcasting, through microwave,
8 satellite or whatever means including the use of any new technologies in television and
9 radio broadcasting systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and

1 facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay
2 stations, is hereby renewed for another twenty-five (25) years.

3
4 **Sec. 2. Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.**— The stations or facilities of
5 the Grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only
6 in the minimum interference on wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations or other
7 stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own
8 privilege to use its assigned wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission
9 or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the Grantee's services and/or the
10 availability thereof.

11
12 **Sec. 3. Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.**— The
13 Grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the
14 appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations and
15 facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without
16 having been authorized by the NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably
17 withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

18
19 In case of any violation of the provisions of this franchise, the NTC shall have
20 the authority to revoke or suspend, after due process, the permits or licenses it issued
21 pursuant to the franchise. The NTC may recommend to Congress of the Philippines
22 the revocation of the franchise for any violation of the provisions of this franchise.

23
24 **Sec. 4. Responsibility to the Public.**—The Grantee shall provide, free of charge,
25 adequate public service time which is reasonable and sufficient to enable the
26 government, through the broadcasting stations or facilities of the Grantee, to reach the
27 pertinent populations or portions thereof, on important public issues and relay
28 important public announcements and warnings concerning public emergencies and
29 calamities, as necessity, urgency, or law may require; provide at all times sound and
30 balanced programming; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; promote public
31 participation; assist in the functions of public information and education; promote
32 audience sensibility and empowerment including closed captioning; and not use its
33 stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech,
34 act or scene, the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful
35 misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest, or to incite, encourage or
36 assist in subversive or treasonable acts.

37
38 Public service time referred herein shall be equivalent to a maximum aggregate
39 of ten percent (10%) of paid commercials or advertisements which shall be allocated
40 based on need to the Executive and Legislative branches, the Judiciary, Constitutional
41 Commissions, and international humanitarian organizations duly recognized by
42 statutes: *Provided*, That the NTC shall increase the public service time in case of
43 extreme emergency or calamity. The NTC shall issue rules and regulations for this
44 purpose, the effectivity when it shall commence upon applicability with other similarly

1 situated broadcast network franchise holders.

2 Pursuant to RA 8370, otherwise known as the "Children's Television Act of
3 1997", the Grantee shall allot a minimum fifteen percent (15%) of the daily total airtime
4 of each broadcasting network or station to child-friendly shows within its regular
5 programming.

6
7 **Sec. 5. Right of Government.**— The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is a part
8 of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the Grantee
9 by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process.

10
11 A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times
12 of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace
13 and order: to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the Grantee;
14 to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public
15 safety, security and public welfare; or to authorize the temporary use and operation
16 thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the Grantee, for
17 the use of said stations or facilities during the period when they shall be so operated.

18
19 **Sec. 6. Term of Franchise.**— This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years
20 from the expiration of the Grantee's previous franchise under RA 9214, unless sooner
21 revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event
22 the Grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

23
24 **Sec. 7. Self-regulation by and Undertaking of Grantee.**— The Grantee shall not
25 require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to
26 be broadcast from its stations, but if any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter
27 should constitute a violation of the law or infringement of a private right, the Grantee
28 shall be free from any liability, civil or criminal, for such speech, play, act or scene, or
29 other matter: *Provided*, That the Grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off the airing
30 of speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof
31 is to propose and or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein
32 or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral: *Provided, further*, That willful failure to do
33 so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise.

34
35 **Sec. 8. Warranty in Favor of the National and Local Governments.**— The Grantee
36 shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments of the Philippines
37 free from all claims, liabilities, demands, or actions arising out of accidents, causing
38 injury to persons or damage to properties, during the construction or operation of the
39 stations of the Grantee.

40
41 **Sec. 9. Commitment to Provide and Promote the Creation of Employment**
42 **Opportunities.**— The Grantee shall create employment opportunities and shall allow
43 on-the-job training in its franchise operation: *Provided*, That priority shall be accorded
44 to the residents of the place where its principal office is located: *Provided, further*, That

1 the Grantee shall follow the applicable labor standards and allowance entitlement
2 under existing labor laws, rules and regulations and similar issuances.

3
4 The employment opportunities or jobs created shall be reflected in the General
5 Information Sheet (GIS) to be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission
6 (SEC) annually.

7 **Sec. 10. Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise.** – The
8 Grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, or assign this franchise or
9 the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company,
10 corporation, or other commercial or legal entity, or merge with any other corporation,
11 or entity, or transfer the controlling interest of the Grantee, whether as a whole or in
12 part, and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm,
13 company, corporation, or entity without the prior approval of Congress: *Provided*, That
14 Congress shall be informed of any sale, lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, or
15 assignment of franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder, or of the
16 merger, or transfer of the controlling interest within sixty (60) days after the completion
17 of said transaction: *Provided, further*, That any such sale, transfer, or assignment is in
18 accordance with the constitutional limitations: *Provided, furthermore*, That failure to
19 report to Congress such change of ownership shall render the franchise ipso facto
20 revoked: *Provided, finally*, That any person or entity to which this franchise is sold,
21 transferred, or assigned, shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions,
22 and limitations of this Act.

23 **Sec. 11. Dispersal of Ownership.**– In accordance with the constitutional provision
24 encouraging public participation in public utilities, the Grantee shall offer to Filipino
25 citizens at least thirty percent (30%) of its outstanding capital stock, or a higher
26 percentage that may hereafter be provided by law, in any securities exchange in the
27 Philippines within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That in cases
28 where public shares is not applicable, other methods of encouraging public
29 participation by citizens and corporations operating public utilities must be
30 implemented. Noncompliance therewith shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

31
32 **Sec.12. Reportorial Requirement.**– The Grantee shall submit an annual report to the
33 Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises of the
34 House of Representatives and the Committee on Public Services of the Senate, on its
35 compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operations on or
36 before April 30 of every year during the term of its franchise.

37
38 The annual report shall include an update on the roll-out, development,
39 operation and/or expansion of business; audited financial statements; latest GIS
40 officially submitted to the SEC, if applicable; certification of the NTC on the status of its
41 permits and operations; and an update on the dispersal of ownership undertaking, if
42 applicable.

1 The reportorial compliance certificate issued by Congress shall be required
2 before any application for permit or certificate is accepted by the NTC.

3
4 **Sec.13. *Fine.***— The failure of the Grantee to submit the requisite annual report to
5 Congress shall be penalized with a fine in the amount of Five hundred pesos (P500.00)
6 per working day of non-compliance which shall be collected by the NTC. The fine shall
7 be collected separately from the reportorial penalties imposed by the NTC and shall
8 be remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury.

9
10 **Sec.14. *Equality Clause.***— Any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity
11 granted under existing franchises, or which may hereafter be granted, upon prior
12 review and approval of Congress, shall become part of this franchise and shall be
13 accorded immediately and unconditionally to herein Grantee: *Provided, however,* That
14 the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect provisions concerning territory covered
15 by the franchise, the term of the franchise, or the type of service authorized by the
16 franchise: *Provided, further,* That the foregoing shall not apply to the sale, lease,
17 transfer, grant of usufruct, or assignment of legislative franchises with prior
18 congressional approval.

19
20 **Sec.15. *Repealability and Non-exclusivity Clause.***—This franchise shall be subject
21 to amendment, alteration, or repeal by Congress when public interest so requires and
22 shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided.

23
24 **Sec.16. *Separability Clause.***—If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held
25 invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

26
27 **Sec.17. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters
28 of instruction, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary
29 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified
30 accordingly.

31
32 **Sec.18. *Effectivity.***— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
33 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. **10208**

(In substitution of House Bill No. 9249)

(Approved by the Committee on 3 June 2026)

AN ACT

RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9214, ENTITLED " AN ACT GRANTING THE NEWSOUNDS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, JEFFREY P. FERRER, DALE B. CORVERA, MANUEL "WOWO" L. FORTES, JR., ALFREDO D. MARAÑON III, ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, JOSE ARTURO S. GARCIA, JR., SANCHO FERNANDO "ANDO" F. OAMINAL, EMMARIE "LOLYPOP" QUANO-DIZON, MAXIMO Y. DALOG JR., MARK ANTHONY SANTOS, MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO, JOSE MANUEL "JM" F. LAGDAMEO, JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA, BRIAN POE, MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES, FERDINAND "B1" L. BELTRAN, ANTONIO A. FERRER, CHRISTOPHER SHEEN P. GONZALES, JUAN CARLOS "ARJO" C. ATAYDE, KAREN HOPE F. GARCIA, EDWIN ONGCHUAN, MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO, GIL "KABARANGAYJR." A. ACOSTA, RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA, JANETTE L. GARIN, ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON, ANTONIO L. TINIO, MA. ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA, GIRLIE E. VELOSO, BERNADETTE G. ESCUDERO, RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ, CARL NICOLAS C. CARI, PATRICIA C. CALDERON, REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN, ARTHUR C. YAP, PRESLEY C. DE JESUS, SERGIO C. DAGOOC, and ELIJAH RUMBAOA SAN FERNANDO

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Committee Chairperson: HON. JEFFREY P. FERRER

OBJECTIVE:

- To authorize the Newsounds Broadcasting Network, Inc., to continue its commercial radio and television broadcasting operations in the Philippines

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Renews the franchise of the Newsounds Broadcasting Network, Inc., for another twenty-five (25) years for continuous commercial radio and television broadcasting operations in the Philippines;
- Mandates the Grantee to secure the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction, installation and operation of its radio stations or facilities from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC);

- Requires the Grantee to provide an adequate public service time equivalent to a maximum aggregate of ten percent (10%) of the paid advertisements, to inform the population on important public issues and assist in the performance of the functions of public information and education;
- Requires the Grantee to allot a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the daily total airtime of each broadcasting network or station to child-friendly shows within its regular programming;
- Prohibits the Grantee to use its stations for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, or to incite, encourage, or assist in subversive or treasonable acts;
- Reserves the right of the President of the Philippines to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the Grantee, to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the government in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order;
- Provides that the national and local governments shall not be held liable for any damage to properties or injury to persons caused by accidents during construction or operation of the stations;
- Prohibits the Grantee from leasing, transferring, selling nor assigning the franchise or the controlling interest thereof without the prior approval of Congress;
- Requires the Grantee to submit an annual report to Congress on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and its operation on or before April 30 of every year;
- Imposes a fine in the amount of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per working day of noncompliance in the submission of its annual report to Congress and to be collected separately from the reportorial penalties imposed by the NTC; and
- Provides an equality clause which aims to grant existing and potential franchise grantees equal privilege.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 9214, entitled “An Act Granting the Newsounds Broadcasting Network, Inc. A Franchise to Construct, Install, Establish, Operate and Maintain Radio and Television Broadcasting Stations in the Philippines”
- Republic Act No. 8370, otherwise known as the “Children’s Television Act of 1997”