

Albay solons fight MMDA bus ban Lingayen Airport to be upgraded

By NINO N. LUCES

LEGAZIPI CITY, Albay - Ako Bicol Party-list Representatives Ronald Ang and Alfredo Garbin filed a resolution at the House of Representatives Friday opposing the banning of provincial buses on EDSA proposed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The Albay lawmakers filed the resolution after MMDA announced that effective this month, all provincial buses can no longer ply on EDSA, and all provincial bus terminals along the highway will be closed down.

Ang told Manila Bulletin provincial buses from the north will have their terminal in Valenzuela City, and those from the south will have their terminal in Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

Ang said the Metro Manila Council (MMC) approved the proposal of MMDA to stop the issuance of business permits to provincial buses ply-

ing on EDSA, without holding public consultations.

He cited 2017 figures from MMDA that 3,300 provincial buses, 12,000 city buses, more than 247,000 private vehicles pass through EDSA every day, causing massive traffic congestion.

The number of provincial buses is too small to justify the approval of the resolution, Ang said. It can also inconvenience commuters who have to take several rides to get to their destination.

Ang suggested that MMC and MMDA come up with a better solution to decongest EDSA traffic by giving priority to commuters using public transportation.

"Sa gayon, mahihikayat yung mga gumagamit ng pribadong sasakyan na gumamit din ng pampublikong sasakyan," he added.

Rep. Alfredo Garbin

said the government have failed to set up an efficient mass transport system in Metro Manila.

"Look at Singapore, in Macao karamihan gumagamit ng mass transport system. Sa atin, since then, panahon pa ni dating Presidente Cory, ni Ramos, ni Erap, ni GMA, ni PNoy at ngayon, the government have failed to have a mass transport system," Garbin said.

Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda earlier announced his opposition to the total provincial bus ban.

By LIEZLE BASA-INIGO

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — The Lingayen Airport will be upgraded to accommodate commercial flights.

The expansion of the airport was announced by Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade during the launching of a transportation project here last April 3.

Tugade said the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), which is under the Department of

Transportation (DOT), has already allocated an initial budget for the expansion of the airport.

He said the runway will be extended from the present 1.17 kilometers to 1.63 km to accommodate commercial planes.

Gov. Amado Espino III said that once completed, the airport is expected to spur employment, tourism and investments in the province.

"A commercial airport operating in Pangasinan is a big help to Pangasinenses," Espino said.

H. No. 5371
Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11254]

AN ACT SEPARATING THE TINAJEROS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - ACACIA ANNEX IN BARANGAY ACACIA, CITY OF MALABON, METRO MANILA FROM THE TINAJEROS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ACACIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Tinajeros National High School - Acacia Annex in Barangay Acacia, City of Malabon, Metro Manila is hereby separated from the Tinajeros National High School and converted into an independent national high school to be known as Acacia National High School.

SEC. 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities and records of the Tinajeros National High School - Acacia Annex are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Acacia National High School.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the Acacia National High School, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Tinajeros National High School - Acacia Annex. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines on December 10, 2018 and February 6, 2019, respectively.

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA Secretary of the Senate
DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING Acting Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAR 29 2019
RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE President of the Philippines



H. No. 6707
Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
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Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand eighteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11246]

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RAVEN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8084, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING RAVEN BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN LUZON AND OTHER AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING"

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

SECTION 1. Nature and Scope of Franchise. - Subject to the provisions of the Philippine Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, the franchise granted to Raven Broadcasting Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee,

its successor or assignee, under Republic Act No. 8084, to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations, including digital television system, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, as well as the use of any new technology in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations in the Philippines, is hereby extended for another twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act.

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

SEC. 3. Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission. - The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations or facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without authorization from the NTC. The NTC, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

The grantee shall not dispose nor lease its facilities except to entities with radio or television franchise: Provided, That the grantee shall inform and secure written authorization to proceed from the NTC, and report the transaction to the NTC within sixty (60) days after its completion: Provided, further, That the NTC shall determine the corresponding sanction for any violation of this provision.

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

Public service time referred herein shall be equivalent to a maximum aggregate of ten percent (10%) of paid commercials or advertisements which shall be allocated based on need to the executive, legislative, judiciary, constitutional commissions and international humanitarian organizations duly recognized by statutes: Provided, That the NTC shall increase the public service time in case of extreme emergency or calamity. The NTC shall issue rules and regulations for this purpose, the effectivity of which shall commence upon applicability with other similarly situated broadcast network franchise holders.

SEC. 5. Right of the Government. - The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn any time after due process.

A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster, or disturbance of peace and order; 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, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use of said stations or facilities during the period when these shall be so operated.

SEC. 6. Term of Franchise. - This franchise shall be in effect for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed ipso facto revoked in the event the grantee fails to operate continuously for two (2) years.

SEC. 7. Self-regulation by and Undertaking of the Grantee. - The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its station, but if any such speech, play, act or scene, 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, act or scene, or other matter: Provided, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off the airing of speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition; or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral: Provided, further, That willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the revocation or cancellation of this franchise.

SEC. 8. Warranty in Favor of the National and Local Governments. - The grantee shall hold the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments of the Philippines free from all claims, liabilities, demands, or actions arising out of accidents, causing injury to persons or damage to properties, during the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee.

SEC. 9. Commitment to Provide and Promote the Creation of Employment Opportunities. - The grantee shall create employment opportunities and shall allow on-the-job trainings in their franchise operation: Provided, That priority shall be accorded to the residents where their principal office is located: Provided, further, That the grantee

shall follow the applicable labor standards and allowance entitlement under existing labor laws, rules and regulations and similar issuances: Provided, finally, That the employment opportunities or jobs created shall be reflected in the General Information Sheet (GIS) to be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission annually.

SEC. 10. Sale, Lease, Transfer, Grant of Usufruct, or Assignment of Franchise. - The grantee shall not sell, lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation, or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. Congress shall be informed of any sale, lease, transfer, grant of usufruct, or assignment of franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder, or of the merger or transfer of the controlling interest of the grantee, within sixty (60) days after the completion of said transaction. Failure to report to Congress such change of ownership shall render the franchise ipso facto revoked. 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.

SEC. 11. Dispersal of Ownership. - In accordance with the constitutional provision to encourage public participation in public utilities, the grantee shall offer to Filipino citizens at least thirty percent (30%) or a higher percentage that may hereafter be provided by law of its outstanding capital stock in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from the commencement of its operations: Provided, That in cases where public offer of shares is not applicable, the grantee shall apply other methods of encouraging public participation by citizens and corporations operating public utilities as allowed by law. Noncompliance therewith shall render the franchise ipso facto revoked.

SEC. 12. Reportorial Requirement. - The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Public Services of the Philippine Senate, on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operations on or before April 30 of every year during the term of its franchise. The reportorial compliance certificate issued by Congress shall be required before any application for permit or certificate is accepted by the NTC.

SEC. 13. Fine. - Failure of the grantee to submit the requisite annual report to Congress shall be penalized by a fine of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per working day of noncompliance. The fine shall be collected by the NTC from the delinquent franchise grantee separate from the reportorial penalties imposed by the NTC and the same shall be remitted to the National Treasury.

SEC. 14. Equality Clause. - Except for taxes and customs duties, any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption, or immunity granted under existing franchises, or which may hereafter be granted for radio and/or television broadcasting, upon prior review and approval of Congress, shall become part of this franchise and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the herein grantee: Provided, That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect the provisions of broadcasting franchises concerning territorial coverage, term, or type of service authorized by the franchise.

SEC. 15. Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause. - This franchise shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
VICENTE C. SOTTO III President of the Senate
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on January 21, 2019.

MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA Secretary of the Senate
DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING Acting Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: MAR 22 2019
RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE President of the Philippines

