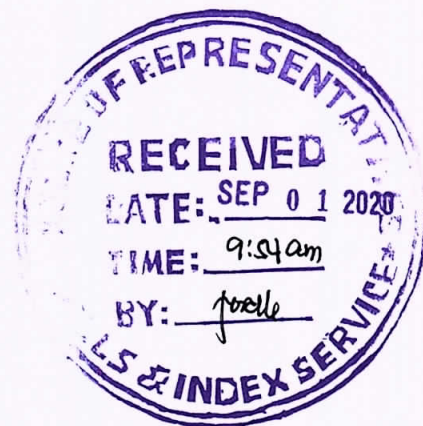


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Res. No. 1175



Introduced by Rep. BERNADETTE R. HERRERA-DY

RESOLUTION

URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO UTILIZE THE VACANT FREQUENCIES OF ABS-CBN FOR DISTANCE-LEARNING AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE FOR IN-PERSON CLASSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, Alto Broadcasting System and Chronicle Broadcasting Network (hereinafter, “ABS-CBN”) has been the pioneering and leading commercial television and broadcast news media network in the Philippines since 1950;¹

WHEREAS, ABS-CBN holds an audience share of approximately 40% for its dissemination of news and family oriented programs as of 2020;²

WHEREAS, ABS-CBN has a total of approximately 11,000 regular and contractual employees;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7966 was enacted on 30 March 1995 and granted ABS-CBN a franchise to operate for 25 years;

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) issued a Cease-and Desist Order (CDO) against ABS-CBN to stop its broadcast operations, a day after the expiration of its congressional franchise on 5 May 2020;

WHEREAS, the CDO includes the broadcast operations of ABS-CBN’s subsidiaries and frequencies consisting of 42 television stations, 10 digital broadcast channels, 18 FM radio stations and 5 AM radio stations;³

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Legislative Franchises denied the franchise renewal application of ABS-CBN on 10 July 2020;

WHEREAS, ABS-CBN previously announced an initiative to use their media assets to create educational and child development programs to shift to distance-learning systems due to the COVID-19 crisis as stated on May 19, 2020;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in the implementation of various forms of community quarantine and has brought unforeseen challenges to the current education system;

WHEREAS, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Education (DepEd), and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) previously agreed to develop a “blended” educational system wherein students can remotely learn online or through television, radio, and printed materials to avoid exposing students and teachers to the risk of contracting the coronavirus at schools;

¹ CNN (2020). *Timeline: ABS-CBN franchise*. Retrieved from: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/2/13/ABS-CBN-franchise-timeline.html>

² ABS-CBN (May 2020). *ABS-CBN to create educational shows as PH shifts to distance-learning during COVID-19 crisis*. Retrieved from: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/19/20/abs-cbn-to-create-educational-shows-as-ph-shifts-to-distance-learning-style-during-covid-19-crisis>

³ ABS-CBN (May 2020). *NTC orders ABS-CBN to stop broadcasting*. Retrieved from: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/05/20/ntc-orders-abs-cbn-to-stop-broadcasting>

WHEREAS, 40% of public universities and colleges nationwide do not have access to Wi-Fi to accommodate distance-learning through digital infrastructure;⁴

WHEREAS, the DICT, DepED, and CHED can efficiently utilize ABS-CBN's vacant television and radio frequencies as an alternative mode for distance-learning considering the extensive nationwide reach of the broadcast network;

WHEREAS, the DepED announced the start of the school year calendar on 24 August 2020 which urgently calls for the utilization of alternative learning delivery modalities to prioritize the health and safety of students and to ensure educational continuity;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the members of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, urging the appropriate House Committee to explore using the vacant frequencies of ABS-CBN for distance-learning as an alternative mode for in-person classes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,


BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

⁴ Rappler (July 2020). 'Good idea' to use ABS-CBN frequencies for distance learning - Roque. Retrieved from: <https://rappler.com/nation/roque-says-good-idea-use-abs-cbn-frequency-distance-learning>