

ABS-CBN shut down

On February 10, 2020, Solicitor General Jose Calida petitioned a quo warranto against ABS-CBN corp. and ABS-CBN Convergence Inc, it's subsidiary. questioning its franchise before the Supreme Court. According to rule 66 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, a "quo warranto" is a legal procedure that is filed against someone who "usurps, intrudes into, or unlawfully holds or exercises a public office, position or franchise". The ABS-CBN Corp. is a mass media network that gives information, entertainment, etc. to many Filipinos both in the Philippines and abroad. The franchise was granted in 1995 up until it expires on March 30th of 2020. In 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte said that the network failed to air his advertisement during the campaign season of the 2016 election in which he was elected as the president. Since then, the president has repeatedly spoken out his disdain towards the network on many different occasions. The president and the people in the cabinet and many others that are on his side wants ABS-CBN, one of the largest media organizations in the Philippines, to shut down. I personally side with the people that are against the shutdown of ABS-CBN.

The ABS-CBN corporation is one of the biggest corporations in the Philippines. It is the leading media and entertainment organization in the Philippines. Many Filipinos choose ABS-CBN over other networks in the Philippines because of the variety and the quality of the content that it gives to the people. The network is involved in creating content for television, cinema, cable, radio, and online for both domestic and international markets. It is also involved in music publishing, consumer products and licensing, magazine and book publishing and many more. The network has currently 11,000 regular and project employees and on-cam talents and many more working for or with them through their franchises. Many people rely on ABS-CBN not only for quality information and entertainment but also for livelihood. Also, the ABS-CBN has the TFC which allows Filipinos abroad to watch shows that are regularly aired in the Philippines.

Since 2017, the president has been open towards his hate to the network. Aside from not airing the said campaign ad, the president also accuses the network of being biased against him. The president and many of his allies are finding ways to shut the network and its franchise down and it seems like they are taking advantage of it expiring soon. It also seems like they're disdain

towards the network is the driving force to the Solicitor General's quo warranto petition, aside from the legal accusations. The president even said that the ABS-CBN franchise should not expect to be renewed and he will make sure that they will be out. Simply put, the president wants ABS-CBN to shut down.

I am for the renewal of the ABS-CBN franchise. Not only that the shutdown will affect the employees of ABS-CBN, but it will also affect the partners of the franchise, the families of the employees and talents, the daily viewers/subscribers of the network, and many more. The network may have made a mistake in not airing the president's campaign ad back then, but they apologized in the initial hearing of the said issue and the accusations of tax evading was disproved by the BIR. As for the alleged bias against the president, the network is just exercising its right to free speech and press freedom. The network is not responsible for the bias of each individual journalists, press members, reporters whether they are biased against the current administration or not. May it be bias or not, people should act logically according to what a certain situation demands, especially when you are the president. Even the rival networks of ABS-CBN are against its shutdown.

Both the administration and the ABS-CBN network have its shortcomings. Nothing is perfect in this world but being petty towards a network when you are supposed to run a country is not going to solve any major issues in the Philippines. Everyone has the right to speak their mind and deny people of this right is wrong. Denying the Filipino people of one of its biggest sources of information, entertainment, livelihood, and many more could affect the balance of how Filipinos lived since ABS-CBN has been a part of Philippine history since the 1950's. Whether the shutdown was successful or not, either way it will affect the administration's reputation both in the Philippines and other countries.

