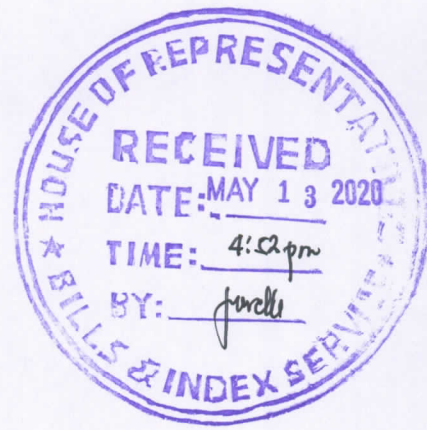


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 863



Introduced by **Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES, TO
ADMONISH THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
ON ITS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THEIR COMMITMENT UNDER
OATH AND TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE SAME AND ON POSSIBLE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ON THE
MATTER**

WHEREAS, on 24 February 2020, during the Senate inquiry on ABS-CBN's compliance with the terms of its franchise, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba answered under oath that the said network does not have any standing penalties or pending violations with the Commission;

WHEREAS, during the said inquiry, the possibility of NTC allowing the ABS-CBN to operate beyond its franchise expiry and until the same is officially extended by legislation, on the basis of the principle of equity, was also discussed;

WHEREAS, seeing the congestion in the schedule of hearings in the House of Representatives and that the next scheduled hearings for the matter will be on May or August, House Committee on Legislative Franchise Chairman Franz Alvarez wrote the NTC on 26 February 2020 enjoining the same to allow the network and its subsidiaries to operate beyond 4 May 2020 and until such time that Congress has made a decision on its application;

WHEREAS, on 10 March 2020, during the hearing before the House Committee on Legislative Franchise for the franchise renewal of ABS-CBN, NTC gave its commitment under oath that it will allow the network to continue its operations until Congress finally decides on the matter of its franchise renewal;

WHEREAS, this commitment was further clarified in a media interview on 11 March 2020, when NTC Deputy Commissioner Ed Cabarrios said that the Commission will allow ABS-CBN to operate from 4 May 2020 until the end of the 18th Congress, unless there is restraint from the Court;

WHEREAS, on 12 March 2020, the Community Quarantine of Metro Manila in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was announced to begin on 15 March 2020; that barely two days into its implementation, Enhanced Community Quarantine was declared on 16 March 2020;

WHEREAS, since then, the country, together with most parts of the world, has been focused on the battle against the said pandemic; during these times, sustained source of income for the masses and reliable dissemination of news and important public announcements have been of paramount importance to the people;

WHEREAS, on 4 May 2020, the legislative franchise of ABS-CBN expired, and the next day, on 5 May 2020, the NTC issued a Cease and Desist Order against the network, directing the same to halt its television and network operations;

WHEREAS, the act of the NTC in issuing the Cease and Desist Order against ABS-CBN is against the commitment it made before the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises, to admonish the NTC for failing to abide by its commitment under oath before the House of Representatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, through the Committee on Legislative Franchises, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the said failure of NTC and on possible measures to be taken on the matter.

Adopted,


REP. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO
First District of Samar