

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 576-A, November 11, 1974]

REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines is empowered under the Constitution to review and approve franchises for public utilities;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that some public utilities, especially radio and television stations, have a tendency toward monopoly in ownership and operation to such an extent that a region or section of the country may be covered by any number of such broadcast stations, all or most of which are owned, operated or managed by one person or corporation;

WHEREAS, radio is the chief vehicle for the dissemination of information, being the source, as surveys have shown, of 86 per cent of all information for the public, and television is becoming similarly pervasive;

WHEREAS, the deep penetration that radio and television thus make into the public consciousness gives them the responsibility of assisting the government to promote and safeguard the public welfare;

WHEREAS, on account of the limited number of frequencies available for broadcasting in the Philippines, it is necessary to regulate the ownership and operation of radio and television stations and provide measures that would enhance quality and viability in broadcasting and help serve the public interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree:

SECTION 1. No radio station or television channel may obtain a franchise unless it has sufficient capital on the basis of equity for its operation for at least one year, including purchase of equipment.

SEC. 2. Every radio station or television channel shall allocate at least two hours a day to a program or programs rendering public service, during such broadcast hours as are normally regarded in the industry as prime time for a particular type of program and its appropriate audience.

Public service refers to news, educational and cultural presentations and other programs informing the people of advances in science, industry, farming, and technology; of policies and important undertakings in government designed to promote or safeguard the public welfare; of matters related to the physical, intellectual and moral development of the young; or of traditions, values and activities which constitute the cultural heritage of the nation.

SEC. 3. No person or corporation may own, operate, or manage more than one radio or television station in one municipality or city; nor more than five AM and five FM radio stations; nor more than five television channels in the entire country, and no radio or television station shall be utilized by any single-interest group to disseminate information or otherwise influence the public or the government to serve or support the ends of such group.