

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9212, July 23, 2003 ]**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7582, ENTITLED "AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE CONSOLIDATED BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE AUDIENCE, INCORPORATED TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-NINE HUNDRED AND TWO, TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THIS ACT"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7582 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *Dispersal of Ownership.* - In compliance with the constitutional mandate to democratize ownership of public utilities, the herein grantee shall make public offering through the stock exchange of at least thirty percent (30%) of its outstanding capital stock or a higher percentage that may hereafter be provided by law, in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from the time it has achieved the status of a national broadcasting network. A "national broadcasting network" is hereby defined as one that operates three (3) or more radio and/or television stations: *Provided*, That the offer to the public through any securities exchange in the Philippines of at least thirty percent (30%) of the number of shares of a holding company that owns at least a majority of the capital stock of the grantee sufficient to constitute an offer of at least thirty percent (30%) interest in the outstanding capital stock of the grantee shall be deemed compliance with the requirement herein provided. Non-compliance therewith shall be a cause for revocation of the franchise: *Provided*, That no single person or entity shall be allowed to own more than five percent (5%) of the stock offerings."

SEC. 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7582 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, Etc.* - The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. Neither shall the controlling interest in the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines: *Provided*, That the foregoing limitation shall not apply to: (1) any transfer or issuance of shares to any