Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 890

Introduced by Rep. **SALACNIB F. BATERINA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant the Solidnorth Broadcasting System a franchise to operate television broadcasting systems in the Philippines, amending for the purpose, Republic Act No. 8089.

The Government has laid the initial ground work for the development of communications and information technology. It creates the climate for more and better communications facilities and services by adopting a more competitive policy in regard to television services.

Solidnorth Broadcasting System though RA 8089 was granted a franchise to construct, establish, operate and maintain commercial radio broadcasting stations only.

With the advancement in the field of communications technology, television plays a vital role in which communities may be informed on matters of public interest. It can be observed that almost all households depend on television for recent developments, not only in our country, but also through out the world.

Solidnorth Broadcasting System (SBS) possesses the capability and the expertise to enhance the development of telecommunications facilities and services in the country. Passage of this bill will give SBS a chance to fulfill its commitment to public service.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is strongly urged.

SALACNIB F. BATERINA

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House Resolution No. 890

Introduced by Rep. **SALACNIB F. BATERINA**

AN ACT AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SOLIDNORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM DWRS COMMANDO RADIO, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHTY EIGHTY-NINE ENTITLED, "AN ACT GRANTING THE SOLIDNORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Sections 1 and 3 of Republic Act No. 8089 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* – Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to the Solidnorth Broadcasting System **DWRS COMMANDO RADIO, INC.**, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, install, **ESTABLISH**, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio **AND TELEVISION** broadcasting stations in the Philippines, **WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND/OR TELEVISION BROADCASTING, THROUGH MICROWAVE, SATELLITE**

OR WHATEVER MEANS, INCLUDING THE USE OF ANY NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN RADIO AND TELEVISION SYSTEMS, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries or facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations, and to install radio communication facilities for the grantee's private use in its broadcast services."

"SEC. 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* – The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for **THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF** its stations **AND FACILITIES** and shall not use any frequency in the radio/**TELEVISION** spectrum without having been authorized by the Commission. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority."

SEC. 2. *Dispersal of Ownership.* – In accordance with the constitutional provision to encourage public participation in public utilities, the grantee shall offer at least thirty *per centum* (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. Noncompliance therewith shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

SEC. 3. *Amendment of Title of Republic Act No. 8089.* – The title of Republic Act No. 8089 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"An Act Granting the Solidnorth Broadcasting System **DWRS COMMANDO RADIO, INC.** a Franchise to Construct, **INSTALL,** Establish, Operate and Maintain **[**Commercial**]** Radio **AND TELEVISION** Broadcasting Stations in the Philippines **[**and for Other Purposes**]**."

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication, upon the initiative of the grantee, in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Phlippines.

Approved,