 JF-F4CE	OF	THE	TE SECRETARY	

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session	) ) )	6	MAR -8	P1 :28
S E S.B. NO	NATE ). <u>2223</u>	RECEIV	ED BY:	<del>S</del>
Introduced b	y Senator Biazon			are and state date with the

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 9006 removed the prohibition on political advertisements in mass media. The main objective for lifting the political ad ban is to provide for a level playing field among all candidates for public office. To achieve this objective, RA 9006 prescribed a limit on the airtime (for television and radio advertisements) that may be used by any candidate or political party.

On 06 January 2004, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) *En Banc* issued Resolution No. 6520 to implement RA 9006. Section 13, par. 1 (a) practically increased the prescribed (air)time limits when it provided that the 180 minutes (for television) and 120 minutes (for radio) was the maximum for all television or radio station, instead of being the aggregate limit regardless of the number of radio or television station.

Because of said COMELEC resolution, we witnessed a deluge of political advertisements on radio and television during the 2004 national and local elections. Candidates computed their airtime limits on a per station basis. Thus, the airtime limits for political advertisements were practically rendered useless in its objective to level the playing field among the candidates for public office. Candidates with an enormous political warchest were able to procure radio and television airtimes way beyond what is prescribed in RA 9006.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill earnestly requested.

RODOLFO G. BIAZON

Senator

		GATICE O	SEWATE THE SECRETARY
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session	) )	6	MAR -8 P1:28
S E S.B. NO	NATE 2223	RECEIVE	D BY:

## AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FAIR ELECTIONS ACT OF 2001"

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

- SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 9006, Section 6 is hereby amended to read as follows: "Sec. 6. Equal Access to Media Time and Space. All registered parties and COALITIONS [bona fide candidates] shall have equal access to media time and space. The following guidelines may be amplified by the COMELEC:
  - Print advertisements shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) page in broadsheet and one-half (1/2) page in tabloids thrice a week per newspaper, magazine or other publications, during the campaign period.
  - (a) Each [bona fide candidate or registered political 6.2 party OR COALITION for a nationally elective office shall be entitled to AN AGGREGATE OF not more than one hundred twenty (120) minutes of television advertisement and one hundred eighty (180) minutes of radio advertisement whether by purchase or donation. THE TIME LIMITS HEREIN PROVIDED SHALL BE COMPUTED BASED ON THE SUM OF ALL THE AIRTIME FREE/CABLE PROCURED FROM ALL TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS. EACH REGISTERED POLITICAL **PARTY** OR COALITION SHALL DISTRIBUTE SAID AGGREGATE TIME **AMONG** ITS CANDIDATES.
  - 6.3 (b) Each [bona fide candidate or] registered political party OR COALITION for a locally elective office shall be entitled to AN AGGREGATE OF not more than sixty (60) minutes of television advertisement and ninety (90) minutes of radio advertisement whether by purchase or donation. THE TIME LIMITS HEREIN PROVIDED SHALL BE COMPUTED BASED ON THE SUM OF ALL THE AIRTIME PROCURED FROM ALL FREE/CABLE TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS, EACH REGISTERED POLITICAL

## PARTY OR COALITION SHALL DISTRIBUTE SAID AGGREGATE TIME AMONG ITS CANDIDATES.

For this purpose the COMELEC, shall require any broadcast station or entity to submit to the COMELEC a copy of its broadcast logs and certificates of performance for the review and verification of the frequency, date, time and duration of advertisements broadcast for any candidate or political party."

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, Executive Orders, Letters of Instruction, Letters of Implementation, Rules and Regulations or parts thereof inconsistent wit any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved.