

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Pasay City

Eighteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 73

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY
AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE
OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF
VETERAN ACTRESS CLARITA VILLARBA RIVERA,
POPULARLY KNOWN AS MILA DEL SOL, AND
HONORING HER CONTRIBUTION IN PHILIPPINE
CINEMA

WHEREAS, Clarita Villarba Rivera, more popularly known as Mila del Sol, is a well-respected and veteran Filipino actress considered as the "Queen of the Golden Age of Philippine Cinema" in the 1930s, whose works have brought entertainment, hope and inspiration to generations of Filipinos;

WHEREAS, she passed away on November 10, 2020, from a lingering illness at the age of 97;

WHEREAS, she started working at the age of 12, accompanied and personally assisted her older sisters who entered the showbiz industry as actresses to earn for their family;

WHEREAS, she was eventually discovered and encouraged to venture into acting and to appear in the movies "*Nasaan Ka Irog*" in 1937, and "*Ang Maya*", "*Hatol ng Mataas na Hari*" and "*Mariang Alimango*" in 1938;

WHEREAS, she landed her first starring role in 1939 in the musical drama "*Giliw Ko*", which is the very first film production of the legendary LVN Pictures, whom she was paired with Fernando Poe Sr., and Ely Ramos;

WHEREAS, she made 12 films under the LVN Pictures film studio and became part of the cast of landmark Filipino films like "*Ibong Adarna*", the first Filipino movie with a color sequence in 1941, and "*Orasang Ginto*", the first post-war Filipino film in 1946 which depicted the Filipinos' misfortunes and tragedies during and after the war;

WHEREAS, she flew to the US to raise her family during the 1950s, when she also pursued her education, attended high school and went to college;

WHEREAS, upon her return to the Philippines she continued her acting career and starred in the long-running television series "*Problema Mo Na Yan*" in the 1960s and appeared in the 1961 Hollywood film "*Espionage Far East*" directed by Ted Post;

WHEREAS, she made more than 40 feature films and worked with some of the most brilliant artists and iconic directors of her time including National Artists for Film Lamberto Avellana, Manuel Conde, Gerardo de Leon and Eddie Romero;

WHEREAS, she was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Awards given by the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) in 1993, and by the *Gawad Urian* in 2013 for her "historic presence" during the infancy of Philippine cinema, and linking its Golden Age during the pre-war and post-war eras;

WHEREAS, her desire to return the gains of her success to the masses who supported her stardom pushed her to pioneer the maintenance service industry in the country by founding the Superior Maintenance Services in 1964, which eventually became one of the biggest janitorial and professional cleaning service firms today and has provided jobs to thousands of Filipinos for more than five decades;

WHEREAS, she also set up the *Pag-asa ng Kabataan* Foundation which granted scholarships to poor but deserving students and low-cost housing for the elderly;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 165 on December 17, 2014, honoring her contributions in the movie industry that enriched Philippine culture, and to Philippine society in general. The same resolution recognized her "unwavering commitment to the improvement of the Philippine society" through her businesses which employ thousands of Filipinos and through her charitable foundations which provide benefits to less privileged individuals;

WHEREAS, her screen name "Miracle of the Sun" became a fitting description on the ray of light she shone not only on the early years of Philippine cinema, but also to the lives of many Filipino families who were given opportunities to change their lives for the better;


WHEREAS, her remarkable contribution and important legacy in the shaping and development of Philippine cinema as one of its oldest and major pillars deserve to be recognized by the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, To express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of veteran actress Clarita Villarba Rivera, popularly known as Mila del Sol, and honoring her contribution in Philippine cinema.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on November 17, 2020.


MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate
