

SENATE
S.R. No. 4

Introduced by Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr.

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE, CINEMA AFFAIRS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ANENT THE STATE OF FILM PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH EMPHASIS ON FUNDING AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE THAT MAY BE EXTENDED PARTICULARLY TO SMALL FILM PRODUCERS AND INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS, THEIR STATUS AS A CONTRIBUTORY SECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND NOT SIMPLY AS A MERE DISCIPLINE OF THE ARTS, THE GLOBALIZATION TRENT, AND ASSISTANCE THAT CAN BE EXTENDED TO THE SECTOR, WITH THE END-IN-VIEW OF FORMULATING AN OMNIBUS INCENTIVES PROGRAM FOR MOVIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, arts and culture enjoy the patronage of the State as ensconced in number of constitutional tenets fostering "the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression, "(Art. XVI, Sec. 14) and the "constitution of all the country's artistic and historic wealth as the cultural treasure of the nation" (Art. XVI, Sec. 16);

WHEREAS, Philippine cinema, in the last two decades, has become the torchbearer of the country's arts and cultural heritage, as manifested in the coterie of recognitions bestowed to the industry in the international circle: the critical acclaim accorded to the films under the helm of Ramon Magsaysay awardee Lino Brocka (for such film as "Jaguar", "Insiang," "Maynila sa Kuko ng Liwanag," "Bona," "Orapronobis" ect.); the Cairo International Film Festival Best Film plum govern to the film "The Flor Contemplacion Story" (artist Nora Aunor was likewise adjudged as Best Actress); the Brussels Film Festival recognition to the film "Rizal sa Dapitan" (actor Albert Martinez winning the Best Actor award also); the outstanding critical assessments merited by such films as "Abot-kamay and Pangarap," "Inagaw ang Lahat sa Akin," "Himala," "Sagada," "Itim" "Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim," "Sa Pusod ng Dagat," "Milagros" among others the retrospective and film exhibitions given to the filmographies of filmmaker Ismael Bernal , actress Jacklyn Jose and short-film expert Nick De Ocampo; and the various invitations for exhibitions of films produced by Reyna Films and other independent movie productions which were feted with raves and recognitions, among others;

WHEREAS, the film industry while providing the government coffers with huge portion of their financial share through taxation has been in the moribund state in the recent past as characterized by low patronage and low box-office receipt, inability to compete with Hollywood-produced movies, slow penetration of the international market (even the Asian circle), continuous production of

formulaic, films, censorship based on limitations provided by the governing statute, etc.

WHEREAS, in the fiscal treatment alone of the industry, the high rate of taxes and the many kinds of impositions (e.g., national and local tax, tax for purposes of flood prevention, etc.) extended to the sector evidenced barriers and undue treatment;

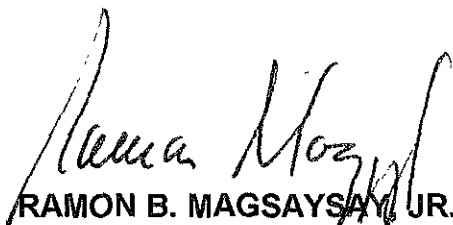
WHEREAS, industry insiders have crafted necessary solution to help the sector by coming up with measures such as the adoption of the "pito-pito system" or the production of films in a limited time span (normally, on 7-day basis with a shoestring budget) which, although alarmed the industry, has given its own promise with the production of low-budgeted productions but accepted with favorable reviews;

WHEREAS, one way of addressing the problem is to treat the industry as a major player in the economy and thus, provide them with available financial resources particularly, the small film producers and independent filmmakers, and in the extent that they be allowed to use the funding assistance accorded to small-and-medium-scale enterprises and entrepreneurs by government financial institutions and similar lending facilities;

WHEREAS, while the issue on restrictive classification or censorship is addressed in the pending amendatory bill on the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, the issues on heavy taxation of the industry and the need to adapt them to the trend of globalization must be looked into to have an immediate resolution to their present problems: **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it hereby resolves, to urge the Senate Committees on Trade and Commerce, Cinema Affairs and other appropriate committees to conduct a comprehensive inquiry, in aid of legislation anent the state of film production in the country, with emphases on funding and business assistance that may be extended particularly to small film producers and independent filmmakers, their status as a contributory sector of the national economy and not simply as a mere discipline of the arts, the globalization trend, and assistance that can be extended to the sector, with the end-in-view of formulating an omnibus incentives program for movies and for other purposes

ADOPTED,


RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY JR.