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SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 466

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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RESOLUTION

COMMENDING FILIPINO FILMMAKER BRILLANTE MENDOZA FOR BEING CONFERRED A CHEVALIER DANS L'ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES OR KNIGHT OF THE FRENCH ORDER OF ARTS AND LETTERS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS INGENUITY ON FILM DIRECTION AND DEDICATION TO HIS CRAFT WHICH MAKES FILIPINO FILMS RENOWNED INTERNATIONALLY, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE

**Whereas**, Article XIV Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall foster 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";

**Whereas**, Brillante Mendoza, a Filipino film director, has been directing films since 2005 and has been sharing his talent and craft both locally and internationally;

**Whereas**, he is considered "a living national treasure of independent cinema in the Philippines" and as a neorealist, as "his films depict the lives of ordinary people in extraordinary situations, set against the universal struggle of life, love and death";

**Whereas**, Mendoza is the first and only Filipino to have competed in the official selection of all three major international film festivals, namely the Cannes, Venice, and Berlin film festivals;

**Whereas**, apart from being the first Filipino to win "The Golden Leopard," the grand prize at the 58th Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland in 2005 for his film, "Masahista", he was also widely recognized abroad, garnering various citations including Best Film for his 2009 film *Lola* at the 6th Dubai International Film Festival; the first Filipino filmmaker to win the Best Director award at the Asia-Pacific Screen Awards, Asia's equivalent of the Oscars, for his film "Thy Womb" starring Nora Aunor; the La Navicella / Venezia Cinema prize given by critics and the "Rivisita del Cinematografo" to the director of "a film considered particularly relevant for the affirmation of human values"; and he is considered as first Filipino and Asian auteur who has been given retrospectives of his films in major European cities, Central Europe, Scandinavian countries, Latin America, North America, and Asia;

**Whereas**, further showcasing the beauty and art of Filipino films, his film *Captive* was shown in competition at the 62nd Berlin International Film Festival in February 2012 and his 2012 film *Thy Womb* competed for the Golden Lion at the 69th Venice International Film Festival;

**Whereas**, of the sixteen (16) films Mendoza has directed, he initially captured the attention of the French audience after the commercial release *Foster Child* in 2007

which, according to Martin Macalintal, the French Embassy in Manila's audiovisual attaché, started the creation of "an awareness in France and in Europe about the contemporary Philippine cinema" through Mendoza's films;

**Whereas**, he was able to co-produce 4 films with France's Swift Productions: *Serbis* (2008), *Kinatay* (2009), *Lola* (2009), and *Captive* (2012) which starred Isabelle Huppert, one of France's award-winning actresses and for which he was granted a special Residency Card called 'Competences et Talents,' allowing him three years of residency in France to complete the post-production of the film;

**Whereas**, Mendoza's films are commercially shown in France, giving the cinema-loving French audience the opportunity to take a glimpse of contemporary Philippine society and enabling him to earn their respect and admiration;

**Whereas**, gaining popularity among the general French movie-goers, Camille Eva Marie Conde, the French Embassy press officer, expressed that Mendoza's "success as a Filipino filmmaker in France also raised the French public's appreciation for Asian or Southeast Asian cinema."

**Whereas**, he was, in fact, the only Filipino honoured in a rare retrospective called "Homage to Bernardo Bertolucci, Dario Argento, and Brillante Mendoza" at the 2011 edition of the Italian Film Festival, "MovieMov", and to join him on its opening night, senior Italian cultural officials flew from all the way from Rome;

**Whereas**, he reaped the fruits of his hard work when he was awarded the Best Director, the only Filipino at that, for his film *Kinatay* at the 62nd Cannes International Film Festival which is considered as France's foremost film competition;

**Whereas**, on January 23, 2014, Mendoza was conferred a Knight of the French Order of Arts and Letters in a reception by French Ambassador Gilles Garachon at his residence in Makati City because of his "personification of the rebirth of Philippine cinema" and to "recognize his talent and body of works that has found a dedicated audience in France";

**Whereas**, Martin Macalintal, the French Embassy in Manila's audiovisual attaché, said the San Fernando, Pampanga-born director was nominated "following the successive selection of his films in the different sections of the Cannes film festival, namely the Directors' Fortnight and Official Competition, and for winning the award for Best Director for *Kinatay* in 2009";

**Whereas**, the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* was established by the French Ministry of Culture in 1957 with three grades: *Chevalier* (Knight), *Officier* (Officer), and *Commandeur* (Commander) as the highest honor;

**Whereas**, the Order, one of France's highest awards, gives recognition to individuals, French citizens and foreigners alike, their significant achievements in the field of arts or literature or for their "significant contribution to the enrichment of the French cultural inheritance.";

**Whereas**, being a recipient of the Order is a prestige given the French audience's and film critics' distinctive taste and appreciation for cinema which has its roots in the invention of the *cinématographe* between the late 19th and early 20th century by brothers Auguste and Louis Lumière, and continues to flourish with around 30 film festivals per year;

**Whereas**, Mendoza now belongs to the roster of cinema and arts luminaries in the international scene such as Clint Eastwood (*Chevalier*, 1985), Bob Dylan

(*Commandeur*, 1990), Sharon Stone (*Chevalier*, 1995), Meryl Streep (*Officier*, 2000), Uma Thurman (*Commandeur*, 2006), George Clooney (*Chevalier*, 2007), Leonardo DiCaprio (*Chevalier*, 2007), and Kylie Minogue (*Chevalier*, 2008); and the Filipino recipients which includes business man Jaime Zobel de Ayala (*Chevalier*, 1979), sculptor Napoleon Abueva (*Chevalier*, 1984), visual artist Arturo Luz (*Officier*, 1987), journalist Rosalinda Orosa (*Officier*, 1993), curator Corazon Alvina (*Chevalier*, 2002), visual artist Allan Cosio (*Chevalier*, 2002), fashion designer Lulu Tan-Gan (*Chevalier*, 2003), film director Tikoy Aguiluz (*Chevalier*, 2003), FEU Chairperson Lourdes Montinola (*Officier*, 2008), historian Ambeth Ocampo (*Officier*, 2008), former Alliance Française de Manille board member and president Deanna Ongpin-Recto (*Officier*, 2008), artist Juvenal Sanso (*Officier*, 2008), architect Augusto Villalon (*Chevalier*, 2012), and writer F. Sionil Jose, (*Chevalier*, 2001);

**Whereas**, Mendoza's commitment to his profession is manifested by his dedication to pursue his advocacy of reflecting human nature and social realities in his films to hopefully become a catalyst of change;

**Whereas**, the honor bestowed upon Mendoza is not only a tribute to his personal achievements but also a distinction to the Filipino ingenuity and craftsmanship in the field of arts and culture;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the **Senate**, to commend Filipino Filmmaker Brillante Mendoza for being conferred a Chevalier Dans L'Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres or Knight of the French Order of Arts and Letters in recognition of his ingenuity on film direction and dedication to his craft which makes Filipino films renowned internationally, especially in France.

*Adopted,*

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator