
Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

I am a firm believer of Cine Filipino and I look forward to the day the Philippines wins an Oscar.

This legislation is a humble recommendation to enact a statute that will enhance and promote the dynamism of Philippine motion picture. It is aimed at encouraging the production of relevant films for a globally competitive cine Filipino. Likewise, this bill recognizes the achievements of actors who are all contributing to the propagation of the nation's artistic heritage.

The last few years have witnessed the resurgence of Filipino cinema to prominence. Excellent films and a corps of competent actors are winning laurels for the country.

National Artist Lamberto Avellana honoured the Philippines by winning its first Best Film prize in the Asia-Pacific Film Festival for *Anak Dalita* in 1956. It equaled the outstanding feat of *Genghis Khan* which was the first Filipino to be exhibited in Cannes Film Festival in 1952.

The decade of 1970s signaled the golden age of Filipino cinema. The great auteur Lino Brocka and realist Ishmael Bernal marshaled the exposition of cine Filipino in the Director's Fortnight in Cannes, Berlinale, Montreal and San Sebastian Film Festivals, among others. Brocka's "*Insiang*", "*Jaguar*", "*Bona*" and "*Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim*"; and Bernal's "*Himala*" and "*Manila By Night: City After Dark*" are hallmarks of the era.

Of recent, both mainstream and independent films are boosting the country's pride: "*Magnifico*", "*Ang Munting Tinig*", "*Maximo Oliveros*", "*Crying Ladies*", "*Kubrador*", and "*Masahista*", among others.

Amongst Filipino actors, a substantial number are distinguished with fine performances recognized abroad. Nora Aunor (in "*The Flor Contemplacion Story*", Cairo International Film Festival, 1995; "*Bakit May Kahapon Pa?*" in Penang Film Festival, 1996 and the only Filipino actor nominated in the highly prestigious Berlin Film Festival, for "*Himala*", 1982), Vilma Santos (2-time winner in Belgium, for "*Dekada 70*" and "*Bata, Bata...Paano Ka Ginawa?*"), Sharon Cuneta-Pangilinan (International Festival of Independent Films in Europe, "*Crying Ladies*", 2004), and Cherie Pie Picache (in "*Kaleldo*", Durban Film Festival in South Africa, 2006 and "*Foster Child*", Osian Cine Fan, 2007). Father and sons Dolphy, Eric Quizon and Epi Quizon scored an ensemble best performance award in Brussels International Film Festival (for "*Markova*").

Consistent with the tenets of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, on the “enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression”¹ and that “arts x x x shall enjoy the patronage of the State”², the proposed legislation is highlighted by the following points:

- award-winning Filipino films given Best Film prize or its equivalent including those that merited recognition for technical excellence (achievements in adaptation or screenplay, story, cinematography, art direction or production design, musical scoring, editing and sound engineering) in respected international film competitions or cinema festivals are given cash prizes;
- Full tax exemptions relevant to the screening of the film and its commercial exhibition, including those levied by local government units (LGUs);
- The award winning film shall be considered and shall have the honor the automatic rating of an “A” film being granted by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

The actor recognized in international competitions are awarded cash prizes of one million pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) and the exemption in the payment of income tax, including value added tax for services rendered, for the particular year the actor wins the award.

Cinema is a pure art. And the country’s grand cultural treasure.



MANNY VILLAR

¹ Article XIV, Section 14

² Article XIV, Section 15

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 16 25

SENATE
S.B. 1637

RECEIVED BY:

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AN ACT
ENCOURAGING THE PRODUCTION OF OUTSTANDING, WORLD-CLASS
AND WELL-ACTED FILIPINO MOTION PICTURE, PROVIDING
INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS AND ACTORS CLAIMING HONORS IN
INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The production of outstanding, relevant and well-acted Filipino films is hereby declared a policy of the State. For the purpose, award-winning Filipino films given Best Film prize or its equivalent including those that merited recognition for technical excellence in respected international film competitions or cinema festivals are hereby accorded the following incentives:

- 1.1. A grant of five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) to the film production or entity that produces the award winning cinema. A grant of two million pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) shall be awarded to winners of technical excellence which may include recognitions in adaptation and screenplay, story, cinematography, art direction or production design and other aspects of filmmaking;
- 1.2. Full tax exemptions relevant to the screening of the film and its commercial exhibition, including those levied by local government units (LGUs);
- 1.3. The award winning film shall be considered and shall have the honor of being given an automatic rating of an "A" film being granted by the Cinema Evaluation Board;

SECTION 2. An actor who wins an international award shall be provided the following prizes and recognitions:

- 2.1. A grant of one million pesos (Php 1,000,000.00);
- 2.2. Exemption in the payment of income tax, including value added tax for services rendered, for the particular year the actor wins the award.

SECTION 3. A special fund amounting to fifty million pesos (Php 50,000,000) which shall be sourced from the funds of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is hereby created.

Other sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other provision or section of this Act.

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. 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 earlier.

Approved,