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SENATE  
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RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE STUDY AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT WAYS AND MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE THE RENAISSANCE OF PHILIPPINE CINEMA CITING THE CONTINUING GROWTH AND RECENT RECOGNITIONS OF FILIPINO INDIE MOVIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS**

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution enshrined the following fundamental guarantees:

- “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”<sup>1</sup>;
- “Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations”<sup>2</sup>;
- “All the country’s artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition”<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, the youngest of the Philippine arts, film has evolved to become the most popular of all the art forms;

Whereas, the following information<sup>4</sup> may be significant in the appreciation of the issue at hand:

- Cinema was introduced in Manila in 1897 with the screening of short films which lasted no more than 45 seconds;
- Filipinos started making movies in 1919;
- The credit of being the first Filipino to make a film goes to Jose Nepumoceno, whom historians dubbed as the “Father of Philippine

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<sup>1</sup> Article XIV, Section 14

<sup>2</sup> Article XIV, Section 15

<sup>3</sup> Article XIV, Section 16

<sup>4</sup> From the websites of Clemont Ferrand International Short Film Festival and [www.aenet.org](http://www.aenet.org)

Movies". Nepumoceno's first film was based on the highly acclaimed musical play *Dalagang Bukid* by Hermogenes Ilagan and Leon Ignacio;

Whereas, film is a powerful medium as it is one art form that can influence thinking and can be a unifying force;

Whereas, among the many recognitions reaped by Pinoy indie movies in recent months, are as follows<sup>5</sup>:

- In the sixth edition of the Bangkok International Film Festival held in Thailand, from September 23-30, 2008, the film *Serbis* won the Golden Kinnaree Award in the Southeast Asian Competition. *Serbis* was chosen also as Best Film Prize winner in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Pacific Meridian Film Festival in Vladivostok, Russia, also in September, 2008. Two other movies *Jay* and *Years When I was a Child* were honoured with Special Mention award in the main competition and Southeast Asian competitions respectively.
- *Tirador* named Best Film at the Asian Film Feature in the 21<sup>st</sup> Singapore International Film Festival held in April, 2008. The same film won the Caligari Award in the 58<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival in Germany and the Special Jury Award in the 7<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival in Morocco.
- The film *Pisay* was selected as Grand Prix du Jury and Audience Prize winner in the Vesoul International Film Festival in France.

Whereas, mechanisms and ways to advance the Philippine cinema must be formulated, and to bring back the glory of Filipino cinema, the same may include providing subsidy, incentives, removal and relaxing of tax provisions, tariff and tax-free importation of cinematograph and film materials, massive information dissemination, promotion of the Philippines as a film tourism destination and others:  
Now therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, to Urge the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media to conduct an immediate study and assessment, in aid of legislation, on ways and mechanisms to promote the renaissance of Philippine cinema citing the continuing growth and recent recognitions of Filipino indie movies in the international film festivals.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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<sup>5</sup> From the websites of the Bangkok International Film Festival, of [www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net), [www.starmometer.com](http://www.starmometer.com)