

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2738



Introduced by **HONORABLE EDCCEL "GREX" B. LAGMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

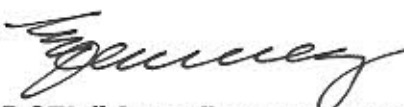
The Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) is an annual event that features quality and potential high grossing films produced by Filipinos. It was originally under the management and administration of the people from the Local Film Industry. However, in recent years up to the present, it is the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) that administers and manages the film fest by its own executive order, and not by legislation.

Every year, controversy hounds the operation and management of the Metro Manila Film Festival. The original proceeds of the MMFF income which benefit the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) the Film Academy of the Philippines and the Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council are now being shared by other government agencies (i.e Film Development Council of the Philippines and Optical Media Board) that are merely on-lookers in terms of operations of the MMFF. The proceeds can still be given to other government agencies at the discretion of the President of the Philippines.

The root cause of this controversy is that the yearly implementer and organizer of the MMFF, which is the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) does not come from the movie and film industry and as such, cannot relate to the real sentiments of the people working with the industry. The MMDA, in the first place, has no legal basis to operate and manage the MMFF as its charter, RA 7924 is silent on the matter. The predecessor of the MMDA, the Metro Manila Commission, by tradition, manages the operation of the MMFF, but this function was not carried in the present MMDA charter.

In order that the movie and film industry flourish and to address the recurring controversies every year, it is just but proper that the organization, operation and management of the Metro Manila Film Festival be transferred to the Metro Manila Film Festival Executive Committee and the original beneficiaries of the MMFF, with the proper allocation of proceeds be retained.

In this manner not only will we unload from the MMDA a task that has no connection whatsoever with its very purpose of existence but we are giving back to the people of the Film Industry what is rightful their expertise and domain.


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AN ACT
MANDATING THE ORGANIZATION, OPERATION AND MANGEMENT OF
THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL TO THE MMFF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to 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. Further, the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. It is the commitment of the State to enrich Philippine culture, to reawaken the people to their historical heritage and traditional values, and to clarify the Filipino image, through the revival and refurbishment of native arts, among which is the Filipino cinema which should rediscover itself by upholding its inherent artistic and social responsibility. And finally, the State recognizes the value and importance of the local movie industry in the over-all developmental effort, encouraging quality film production both in substance and in form and providing incentives to the performing artist and the technicians in the industry.

SECTION 2. Creation of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) Executive Committee. – The Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) is hereby authorized to facilitate the creation of the MMFF Executive Committee for the purpose of organization, operation and management of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

SECTION 3. Functions of the MMFF Executive Committee. -- In order to insure the successful celebration of the annual Metro Manila Film Festival, and to harness the full potential of the movie and film industry to be a viable and profitable business enterprise and to accelerate preservation, growth and development of the motion picture art and science in the country, the MMFF Executive Committee shall:

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- a. Give due recognition, awards distinction, appreciation through the Metro Manila Film Festival and other forms of reward for significant efforts and accomplishments of the improved and development of the motion picture art and science in the country;
 - b. Set up and administer a viable system of objectives to encourage the growth and development of high quality motion pictures in the country, which incentives shall include the grant of recognition to deserving individuals or entities who have contributed to the vital task and objectives of improving the quality of film-making or cinematic production in the country;
 - c. Engage in fund raising campaign among all sectors of society to ensure successful operation of the annual MMFF;
 - d. Collect the proceeds of the MMFF and disburse the shares to different beneficiaries identified in this Act. In relation to this, the Commission on Audit

- shall, among others, conduct an annual comprehensive audit of accounts and transactions pertaining to MMFF revenue and receipts, expenditures and uses of funds and property;
- e. Establish, operate and maintain a Film Archive for the purpose of preserving and disseminating motion picture which are historical, cultural and/or aesthetic value of the nation; and
 - f. Provide assistance and support for all efforts, activities and enterprises which are designed or envisioned to raise the standard of the cinematic art and science in the country in consonance with the cultural, scientific educational values and sensibilities of our people and our society, and in keeping with the country's social and economic development aims and objectives; and consistent therewith, to adopt and implement such measures as may be proper or necessary to ensure the success of such efforts, activities and enterprises and to obtain satisfactory results therefrom, particularly performance, and also in terms of cultural achievements.

SECTION 4. Composition of the MMFF Executive Committee – The MMFF Executive Committee shall be composed of the following:

- a. Chairperson: Executive Director of the FDCP
- b. Members: One representative from the different guilds under the Film Academy of the Philippines, to wit:
 - Philippine Motion Picture Producers Association
 - Movie Producers and Distributors Associations of the Philippines
 - Kapisanan ng mga Direktor ng Pelikulang Pilipino
 - Kapisanan ng mga Artistang Pilipino sa Pelikula at Telebisyon
 - Screenwriters Guild for Motion Pictures
 - Filipino Society of Cinematography
 - Sound Technicians Association for Motion Pictures
 - United Film Musical Directors of the Philippines
 - Production Designers Guild of the Philippines
 - Assistant Director and Production Managers Guild of the Philippines
- c. President of the Movie Workers Welfare Fund Foundation INC. (MOWELFUND)
- d. Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
- e. One representative from the Local Government Units of Metro Manila as chosen by the Metro Manila Mayors

SECTION 5. Distribution of the Amusement Tax collected by the Local Government Units to beneficiaries. The total amusement tax collected by the Local Government Units in Metro Manila and in other places where all or any film festival entry is exhibited simultaneously during the Festival period shall be held in trust by the local government units concerned and said collection shall be released to the following beneficiaries:

- a. Movie Workers Welfare Fund Foundation INC. (MOWELFUND) - FORTY percent (40%)
- b. Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) - FORTY percent (40%)
- c. Optical Media Board (OMB) - TWENTY percent (20%)

SECTION 6. Advertisement, Promotions, Sponsorships, Festival Income. The Festival Income from sources other than proceeds from theater ticket sales, such as but not limited to advertisement, promotions, sponsorships shall be divided to the above named beneficiaries in the same ration.

SECTION 7. Metropolitan Manila Film Festival Income Distribution. The net income of the annual Metropolitan Manila Film Festival shall be distributed to the following traditional beneficiaries:

- a. Movie Workers Welfare Fund Foundation INC. (MOWELFUND) – FORTY percent (40%)
- b. Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) - FORTYpercent (40%)
- c. Motion Picture Anti-Piracy Council - TWENTY percent (20%)

SECTION 8. Appropriation. To effectively carry out the objectives of this Act, the amount of TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000) is hereby authorized to be appropriated under the FDCP for the initial operation of the MMFF Executive Committee. Thereafter, such funds as are necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions shall not be affected hereof.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this provision are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,