

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Metro Manila  
Eighteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

RESOLUTION NO. 307

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE FILIPINO ARTISTS AND CREATIVES BEHIND THE FILM, *LEONOR WILL NEVER DIE*, LED BY ITS DIRECTOR, MS. MARTIKA RAMIREZ ESCOBAR, FOR WINNING THE WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE SPIRIT AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2022

WHEREAS, the Sundance Film Festival 2022 was held from January 20 to 30, 2022, and was conducted virtually due to the then-persistent threats of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Sundance Film Festival is considered the largest independent film festival in the United States, as it was home to many critically acclaimed films such as Joanna Hogg's *The Souvenir*, Lee Isaac Chung's *Minari*, and Sian Heder's *CODA*;

WHEREAS, at the Sundance Film Festival 2022, the film entitled *Leonor Will Never Die* won the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Innovative Spirit;

WHEREAS, *Leonor Will Never Die* is a 2022 Filipino psychological comedy-drama film. It is the feature film directorial debut of Ms. Martika Ramirez Escobar, a Filipina graduate of the University of the Philippines Film Institute. Escobar also wrote the screenplay. The film stars theater veteran Sheila Francisco who played a retired screenwriter, the protagonist of the film. The supporting cast includes Bong Cabrera, Rocky Salumbides, and Anthony Falcon. The film is an homage to Filipino action films of the 1970s and 1980s;

WHEREAS, the presenting juror, La Frances Hui, described the film as “a playful display of the love of cinema.” She added that the film’s “innovative and risk-taking spirit is especially commendable.” The jury citation further described the film as “a playful display of the love of cinema”;

WHEREAS, Escobar revealed that her masterpiece *Leonor Will Never Die*, which won an award at the Sundance Film Festival, took eight years to make, during which she spent her time rewriting the drafts of the script and even joining several workshops under film stalwarts Ricky Lee and Bing Lao to strengthen her screenplay;

WHEREAS, Escobar shared that she organized a team of filmmakers and creatives with similar wavelengths who supported her and her vision for the film;

WHEREAS, the film had appearances from people within the filmmaking community such as John Torres, Sheron Dayoc, Victor Villanueva, Kristine Kintana, Chad Cabigon, Kip Oebanda, and Alembert Ang;

WHEREAS, the story of how Escobar persisted in finishing the film is a reminder that the creative process takes time, resources, and a constructive support system to be able to produce quality and award-winning works: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, To acknowledge and applaud the Filipino artists and creatives behind the film, *Leonor Will Never Die*, with special commendation to its director, Ms. Martika Ramirez Escobar, for winning the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award for Innovative Spirit at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival, contributing to the Third Golden Age of Philippine Cinema and amplifying the call for more meaningful ways of supporting Filipino arts and culture.*


*Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be given to Ms. Martika Ramirez Escobar, and another copy be prepared for submission to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines for proper archiving.*

Adopted,



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO  
*Speaker*

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on May 26, 2022.



MARK LLANDRO "DONG" L. MENDOZA  
*Secretary General*

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