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SENATE

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RECEIVED BY

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING DAVID DEMITRI AFRICA AND TOBY LEUNG FOR THEIR HISTORIC FIRST WIN FOR THE PHILIPPINES AT THE 43RD WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN MADRID, SPAIN

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate has, on several occasions, give recognition and commendation to outstanding Filipinos for their exceptional feats of bringing honor, pride and glory to the country by garnering prestigious awards;

WHEREAS, the World Universities Debating Championships (WUDC) is widely considered as the "Olympics of debating", held annually in English with teams representing universities from across the world;

WHEREAS, this year marks the 43rd edition of the WUDC, considered as the world's biggest debating tournament, held at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain and hosted by the World Universities Debating Council from December 27, 2022 to January 4, 2023;

WHEREAS, hundreds of teams representing universities all over the world participated in the annual debating tournament which uses the British Parliamentary debate format. Topics are only made public 15 minutes prior to the start of the debate, according to the WUDC 2023 website;

WHEREAS, David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung of Ateneo de Manila University, won first place in the competition's final round on January 4, 2022 held in Madrid, Spain;

WHEREAS, David appeared at the WUDC Grand Finals twice already, while it is Toby's debut. Both of them are taking Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics

with a Specialization in Data Science. They are also members of the Ateneo Debate Society;

WHEREAS, David and Toni bested other pairs from Princeton University (United States), Sofia University (Bulgaria) and Tel Aviv University (Israel) in the Finals Round. They have also beaten other international institutions during the nine elimination rounds as well as in other break rounds;

WHEREAS, David and Toni achieved the feat as the first delegates from the Philippines to emerge as champions in the said international debate tournament. Ateneo de Manila University is the first-ever Philippine university that has bagged this championship, as well as the second Asian university to get the coveted debate crown following BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh last year;

WHEREAS, Toni was named the second-best speaker while David ranked eighth. David and Toni debated in the finals on the affirmative to have *"a world where all individuals have a strong belief in Ubuntu."* Ubuntu is a philosophical belief that means *"I am because we are"*;

WHEREAS, the excellent performance of David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung in the 2022 World Universities Debating Championships deserves recognition for bringing honor to our nation for their ingenuity, wit and timing. Their historic win in the international stage shows how promising the Filipino youth are;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to congratulate and recognize David Demitri Africa and Toby Leung for their historic first win for the Philippines at the 43rd World Universities Debating Championship held in Madrid, Spain.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.