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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE  
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RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE ATENEO DEBATE SOCIETY**  
**AND THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR HISTORIC FEAT OF**  
**WINNING THE 2023 WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Senate of the Philippines has, on innumerable occasions, recognized and commended outstanding Filipinos for their achievements that have garnered international awards and praise, bringing honor and pride to our nation and showcasing the Filipino relentlessness in the pursuit of excellence in any field;

**WHEREAS**, at the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Universities Debating Championships, held in Spain, from December 27 to January 4, Filipino students David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung of the Ateneo de Manila University have made history by conquering their opponents and winning the world title for the Philippines, for the first time in the prestigious tournament's long history;

**WHEREAS**, Africa and Leung, members of the Ateneo Debate Society proved to be formidable competition for their top tier opponents from all over the world, as they bested hundreds of teams from prestigious institutions from all over the globe, including Princeton University, Sofia University and Tel Aviv University in the final round of the tournament;

**WHEREAS**, the Filipino duo debated on motion of whether or not it is preferable to have a world where all persons have a strong belief of Ubuntu, a philosophy that originates from Africa;

**WHEREAS**, the idea of Ubuntu is best described as an African philosophy that places heavy emphasis on humanism, and how people should be for and live for their communities, their obligations and identities should be for the betterment of one's community;

**WHEREAS**, Leung and Africa got the best of their opponents from the aforementioned prestigious universities in the final round to win the elusive title for the Philippines for the first time in the tournament's 42-year long history, an astonishing feat, considering that our country is no stranger to this competition, our nation's finest have been participating in the tilt for years;

**WHEREAS**, David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung both hail from the Ateneo de Manila University and study Applied Mathematics and specialize in Data Science, on top of their incredible feat, they were also hailed as top speakers at the tournament, with Africa placing 8<sup>th</sup> and Leung placing 2<sup>nd</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, since the inception of the tournament back in 1981, there have been an overwhelming majority of winners and grand finalists that come from English-speaking nations such as the United Kingdom, United States, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, with Asian institutions barely making the list;

**WHEREAS**, in the history of the competition, this win means so much not only to us as a nation but all the other Asian countries that have tried to bag the elusive title, this is a win for the Philippines and our fellow Asian neighbors;

**WHEREAS**, this incredible achievement of the Ateneo de Manila University students Africa and Leung in the competition demonstrate the remarkable ability of Filipinos to bounce back and thrive despite heartbreaking losses, it also perfectly demonstrates that the Filipino perseverance is like no other;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, for the Senate of the Philippines to congratulate and commend David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung for their historical achievement at the 43<sup>rd</sup> World Universities Debating Championship held in Spain.

*Adopted,*



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*