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SENATE

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**Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DAVID DEMITRI AFRICA AND TOBI LEUNG OF THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP (WUDC) 2023 LAST JANUARY 3, 2023 IN MADRID, SPAIN**

- 1 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines has regularly recognized outstanding  
2 achievements of exemplary Filipinos in prestigious international competitions for  
3 bringing honor and pride to the nation;
- 4 WHEREAS, the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC), hosted by  
5 the World Universities Debating Council, is considered as the world's biggest and  
6 most prestigious debate tournament. It is also one of the largest annual  
7 international student events in the world. The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition was held from December  
8 27, 2022 to January 4, 2023 in Madrid, Spain and was participated by more than 260  
9 debate teams across the globe;
- 10 WHEREAS, a team from the Philippines, represented by David Demitri Africa  
11 and Tobi Leung, who are both Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics with  
12 Specialization in Data Science students from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU),  
13 emerged as the world champion of the tournament on the night of January 3, 2023  
14 in Madrid, Spain;
- 15 WHEREAS, it is the first time that a team from the Philippines or Southeast  
16 Asia clinched the top prize of the competition, which is usually ruled by English-

1 speaking countries such as the United Kingdom, United States of America, and  
2 Australia. ADMU also becomes the second university in Asia to bag the championship  
3 title, after the same was won by BRAC University of Bangladesh in 2022;

4 WHEREAS, Leung was named as the second best speaker of the tilt, the  
5 highest rank ever achieved by a Filipino in the WUDC. Meanwhile, Africa was ranked  
6 eighth overall best speaker;

7 WHEREAS, team Ateneo A composed of Africa and Leung bested fellow young  
8 contenders from prominent and illustrious educational institutions such as Harvard  
9 College, Stanford University, Princeton University, National University of Singapore,  
10 London School of Economics, and University of Sydney, among others in the earlier  
11 rounds to secure a spot in the finals;

12 WHEREAS, the duo from Ateneo Debate Society went head-to-head and  
13 succeeded against representatives from Princeton University (USA), Tel Aviv  
14 University (Israel) and Sofia University (Bulgaria) in the grand final, which centered  
15 on the motion of whether or not it's preferable to have a world where all persons  
16 have a strong belief in the philosophy of Ubuntu or "I am because we are," to attain  
17 the historic feat;

18 WHEREAS, their momentous victory is proof of the Filipino students' capacity  
19 to stand alongside the world's best young speakers and thinkers. Africa and Leung  
20 represented the country competently in the international debating stage, and have  
21 shown the world the nation's gift of eloquence, intellectual prowess, and ingenuity;

22 WHEREAS, their mastery of the art of persuasion, critical thinking, and  
23 creative formulation of ideas honed through years of dedication, study and  
24 discipline, even at such a young age, are positive characteristics that are worthy of  
25 emulation, especially for our students;

26 WHEREAS, this extraordinary accomplishment brings immense honor, joy, and  
27 pride to the country and deserves highest commendation from the Philippine Senate;

28 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,  
29 to commend and congratulate David Demitri Africa and Tobi Leung of the Ateneo de

- 1 Manila University for winning the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC)
- 2 2023 last January 3, 2023 in Madrid, Spain.

*Adopted,*



**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**