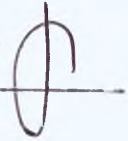


Introduced by SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

RECEIVED BY:



**RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BIANCA BUSTAMANTE
FOR BEING THE FIRST FILIPINA TO WIN AN OFFICIAL FIA-SANCTIONED
SINGLE-SEATER RACE**

WHEREAS, on 7 May 2023, the Philippine flag was raised for the first time in an event when Bianca Bustamante secured her maiden race win in the inaugural Formula One (F1) Academy, making her the first Filipina and Asian driver to win a race in the F1 feeder series;

WHEREAS, her dominance in the Valencia circuit shone through her strong qualifying drive that secured her maiden pole position and through her unbroken lead of all the race laps¹;

WHEREAS, the F1 Academy is a newly established all-female single-seater race consisting of 15 drivers racing for 5 teams competing for points during 21 races. Bianca Bustamante's signing with the PREMA Racing Team cements her place in a very short list of Filipina racing drivers;

WHEREAS, her signing with PREMA places her in the good company of F1 drivers like Charles Leclerc of Scuderia Ferrari and Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo who are graduates of the said racing team;

WHEREAS, Bianca Bustamante secured her place in racing history as the only Southeast Asian driver in the history of the W Series and the only Asian driver in the 2023 F1 Academy;

WHEREAS, she has shown her merit as a formidable racer having won several Championships in the Junior Asian Karting Open Championship (2018 and 2019) and Macao International Kart GP (2014, 2018, and 2019)². She also emerged as a 4-time winner in the Chinese Grand Prix Kart Scholarship from 2018 to 2019 and has been awarded as a Karter of the Year for several years at the Junior and Senior level³;

WHEREAS, in addition to the aforementioned championships, she was selected as the only contestant from Asia for the 2021 Federacion Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Girls on Track-Rising Stars Scholarship and has placed an impressive 4th out of 91 participants in the 2015 SKUSA Super Nationals, one of the biggest kart races in the United States⁴;

WHEREAS, her F1 journey received a serious boost when she was selected to be one of the racing drivers in the W Series in 2022 where she emerged as a Scholarship Shootout Winner and Top Rookie in Drivers Standings. This year, her F1 campaign in

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/sports/2023/05/07/2264510/bianca-bustamante-posts-first-race-win-f1-academy>

² <https://www.biancabustamante.com/>

³ *ibid*

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *ibid*

the F4 UAE Championship and F1 Academy started on a strong note, finishing on points twice in the former category⁵.

WHEREAS, to highlight the long and arduous road lying before her as she pursues her ambition to be a female F1 driver, it should be noted that an investment of at least \$8 million⁶ is needed for a driver's campaign, from karting to competing in the F1 feeder series, making F1 one of the most restrictive sports to break through;

WHEREAS, in the entire history of Formula One, there have been only 5 female drivers out of all 774 F1 drivers. The flourishing interest of aspiring female racecar drivers like Bianca Bustamante who are enthusiastic about putting in the hard work and are hungry to win makes the future of this sport exciting and enduring;

WHEREAS, the F1 journey of Bianca will encourage a generation of young Filipinas to dream and pursue a career in motor racing, a sport long dominated by men and strongly associated with them;

WHEREAS, considering the notable nature of her achievements, Bianca Bustamante stands as an inspiration and role-model for Filipinas as they strive to achieve their dreams and take their place among the best in the world;

NOW THEREFORE, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to commend and congratulate Bianca Bustamante for being the first Filipina to win an official FIA-sanctioned single-seater race.

Adopted,


RISA HONTIVEROS

⁵ ibid

⁶ <https://www.raconteur.net/the-8-million-cost-of-the-road-to-formula-one/>