

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

23 JAN -5 P12 :00

SENATE

RECEIVED BY



P. S. RES. No. 405

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING DAVID AFRICA AND TOBI LEUNG OF THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY'S DEBATE SOCIETY FOR WINNING THE 2023 WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN MADRID, SPAIN

WHEREAS, on 4 January 2023 (Manila Time), a team from the Ateneo De Manila University's Debate Society composed of David Africa and Tobi Leung won the 2023 World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC), the world's biggest debating tournament, held in Madrid, Spain;¹

WHEREAS, this is the third consecutive time that a team from the Ateneo De Manila University has advanced to the finals round, and the first time that a Filipino team has won the championship in the tournament's history;²

WHEREAS, over 260 teams competed in Madrid, Spain this year. The Ateneo A team, composed of Africa and Leung, bested teams from Princeton University (United States of America), Sofia University (Bulgaria), and Tel Aviv University (Israel) in the final round;³

WHEREAS, this is Africa's third appearance at the Grand Finals of the WUDC and a first time for Leung;⁴

WHEREAS, this year marks the 43rd edition of the World Universities Debating Championship. The prestigious debate tournament is held annually in English and is participated by teams representing universities from across the world. The tournament is governed by the World Universities Debating Council;⁵

WHEREAS, WUDC uses the British Parliamentary debate format. Fifteen (15) minutes prior to each round, a "motion" or topic is announced. Four teams compete in each round and all eight speakers are given time to make their case. In this year's final round, the teams debated whether or not it was preferable to have "a world where all individuals have a strong belief in Ubuntu." Ubuntu, which translates to "I am because we

¹ Official Facebook Page of the Ateneo Debate Society. Posted on 4 January 2023. Available at <https://www.facebook.com/AteneoDebateSociety> (Accessed on 4 January 2023).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Official Website of the World Universities Debating Council. Available at <https://www.worlddebating.org> (Accessed on 4 January 2023).

are," is a philosophical belief that asserts that people's identities should be shaped by, and their obligations should primarily be owed to, their communities. Leung was named the second-best speaker in the finals while Africa ranked eighth;⁶

WHEREAS, David Africa and Tobi Leung's outstanding performance in the WUDC finals is an incredible feat that merits the government's and the entire country's praise and recognition. They have brought pride, honor, and inspiration to the Filipino people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to congratulate and commend David Africa and Tobi Leung of the Ateneo De Manila University's Debate Society for winning the 2023 World Universities Debating Championship held in Madrid, Spain.

Adopted,


JOEL VILLANUEVA 

⁶ ABS-CBN News. *Philippine team wins international debate tournament*. Published on 4 January 2023. Available at https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/04/23/philippines-wins-intl-debate-tournament?utm_source=dlvrit&utm_medium=facebook (Accessed on 4 January 2023).