



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

23 JAN 23 P12 :08

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P.S. Res. No. 438

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM, ESPECIALLY DAVID AFRICA AND TOBI LEUNG, FOR PARTICIPATING AND WINNING IN THE 2023 WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD ON DECEMBER 29, 2022 TO JANUARY 3, 2023 IN MADRID, SPAIN

WHEREAS, Article II Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution states that "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.";

WHEREAS, the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Debate Team participated in the prestigious 2023 World Universities Debate Championship (WUDC), which is the world's biggest debating tournament that is held annually in English and with teams representing prestigious universities around the world¹;

WHEREAS, the 2023 WUDC held nine preliminary rounds from December 29 to 31, 2022, the elimination round on 2 January 2023 and the grand finals on 3 January 2023;

WHEREAS, the duo of David Africa and Toby Leung from ADMU Debate Team advanced to the finals after successfully defeating the debating teams representing other international educational institutions they met during the preliminary rounds and the other break rounds;

¹ <https://www.worlddebating.org/home>

WHEREAS, at the final round on 3 January 2023, ADMU's Africa and Leung debated over the philosophical belief "Ubuntu" (I am because we are) and emerged victorious over the competing teams from Princeton University (United States), Tel Aviv University (Israel), and Sofia University (Bulgaria)²;

WHEREAS, David Africa was named as the 2023 WUDC's eight-overall best speaker, while Tobi Leung was named as the second-best overall speaker in the said tournament;

WHEREAS, since WUDC's inception in 1981, the vast majority of champions and grand finalists came from English-speaking countries in the Western nations, such as the United Kingdom, United States, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand³;

WHEREAS, ADMU's Africa and Leung won for the Philippines the first ever Filipino and Southeast Asian WUDC championship title;

WHEREAS, the achievement of the ADMU Debate Team gave us national pride and honor by prominently raising the Philippine flag in the realm of academics and by highlighting the capabilities of Filipinos globally as among the world's best;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to congratulate and commend the Ateneo De Manila Debate Team, especially David Africa and Tobi Leung, for participating and winning in the 2023 World University Debate Championship (WUDC) held from 29 December 2022 to 03 January 2023 in Madrid, Spain, and for bringing pride and honor to the country.

Adopted,



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

² <https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314293449/ateneo-studes-this-years-world-top-debaters.html>

³ <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2023/1/4/Ateneo-debate-championship.html>