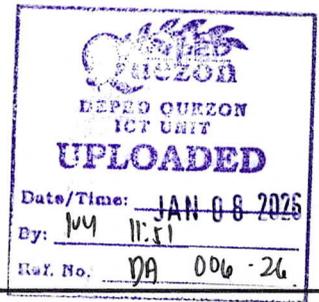




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 Region IV-A
 SCHOOLS DIVISION OF QUEZON PROVINCE



DIVISION ADVISORY NO. 606, S. 2026
January 7, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013, this advisory is issued not for endorsement as per DO 28, s. 2001, but only for the information of DepEd officials, personnel/staff, and the concerned public.
 (Visit www.deped.gov.ph.)

TALASTASAN

The UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tayo (UP KAPITAS) will hold its inaugural high school event titled “TALASTASAN”, with the theme “Paglinang ng Dunong Para sa Pilosopiyang Pilipino at Kamalayang Pambansa” on February 7, 2026, at University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Attached are relevant documents for your reference regarding TALASTASAN, including the event’s concept paper and a primer outlining the specific guidelines for each competition. The registration form may likewise be accessed through this link: <https://bit.ly/Talastasan2026Registration>.

For more queries or inquiries, please contact Mr. Sean Marcus Ingalla through slingalla@up.edu.ph or contact number 09925545513 or Ms. Sofia Mendoza through sdmendoza3@up.edu.ph.

cid-ims/wfg/dmdg/01/07/2026 *[Signature]*

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO

January 5, 2025

Dr. Rommel C. Bautista

Schools Division Superintendent

DepEd: Schools Division Office of Quezon

Dear Dr. Bautista,

Greetings in the name of philosophy!

We are the **UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo (UP KAPITAS)**, a duly recognized socio-academic organization exclusive to philosophy majors in the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines Diliman. For 35 years, our organization has been devoting itself to promoting and developing Filipino Philosophy and Philosophy as a discipline in society.

On February 7, 2026, the organization will hold its inaugural high school event, entitled **TALASTASAN**, with the theme **“Paglinang ng Dunong Para sa Pilosopiyang Pilipino at Kamalayang Pambansa,”** at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Composing of a series of talks, essay writing, and ethics bowl competitions, the event aims to serve as a stepping stone for young Filipino high school students to be introduced to Filipino Philosophy as a discipline, and deepen their understanding and appreciation for philosophy as a whole through applying analytical clarity and rigor in engaging with social issues.

In this regard, we humbly seek the support of your esteemed office in facilitating the endorsement of our program to public and private schools within your city. Pursuant to Department of Education Order No. 8, s. 2013, entitled “Policy Guidelines on Regulating the Issuance of DepEd Advisories,” we humbly ask for an advisory from your good office to pursue a wider audience and intensify our campaign. By encouraging student participation in **TALASTASAN**, your office would play a vital role in amplifying the program’s effectiveness and ensuring the meaningful impact it aims to achieve. Your guidance and endorsement would be invaluable to the success of this endeavor.

Iba. Kritikal. Tasyo.

EST. 1990



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facebook.com/upkapitas



[@up_kapitas](https://twitter.com/up_kapitas)



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO

Attached herewith are relevant documents for your reference regarding TALASTASAN, including the event's concept paper and a primer outlining the specific guidelines for each competition. The registration form may likewise be accessed through the following link: <https://bit.ly/Talastasan2026Registration>.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Iba. Kritikal. Tasyo.

Sean Marcus Ingalla
Academics Committee Co-Head
UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo

Sofia Mendoza
Academics Committee Co-Head
UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo

Rhea Manalili
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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
UP KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO
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EVENT PRIMER



TALASTASAN

**PAGLINANG NG DUNONG PARA SA PILOSOPIYANG PILIPINO
AT KAMALAYANG PAMBANSA**

1st Nationwide Highschool Event of UP Kabataang PilosopoTasyo



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
UP KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO
IBA. KRITIKAL. TASYO.

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PREFACE

UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo (KAPITAS) is a University of the Philippines Diliman-based organization that prides itself as the premier student formation **advancing Filipino philosophy and a brand of thinking that serves the people**. As social problems continue to hound the nation and the world at large, the imperative to be equipped with the intellectual resources to engage faithfully and constructively sharpens. It is against this backdrop that UP KAPITAS is launching “TALASTASAN 2026: Paglinang ng Dunong Para sa Pilosopiyang Pilipino at Kamalayang Pambansa,” which **aims to reach out to high school students through a series of plenary talks and competitions**.

The theme “TALASTASAN” roughly translates to “exchange,” which is the organization’s driving motivation in conducting the event. It aims to empower students to engage in rigorous deliberation, reasoned interactions, and profound reflection through philosophizing. The subtheme emphasizes the event’s objective to cultivate students’ knowledge of Filipino philosophy and a deeper appreciation of national consciousness—both of which are important in seeking peace, justice, and unity amid a time when discord seems to prevail, corruption proliferates, and wars across the world persist.

As the next generation of young people who will soon enter college, inculcating a sense of passion for philosophy in general and **Filipino philosophy in particular is essential** in making sure that the discipline continues to thrive and survive recent societal onslaughts. This will be a whole-day event within UP Diliman. Plenary talks will revolve around **introducing philosophy** as an academic discipline, the career options in the field, and how **Filipino philosophy can be used in illuminating the issues** besetting the country now. Speakers are established academics in the field. On the other hand, students’ skills will be honed through the **essay writing competition and ethics bowl**, the specific mechanics of which are in this primer.


SEAN MARCUS INGALLA
ACADEMICS COMMITTEE
CO-HEAD


SOFIA RAINE MENDOZA
ACADEMICS COMMITTEE
CO-HEAD

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo (UP KAPTAS) is a socio-academic organization of students from the Department of Philosophy at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. For more than three decades, UP KAPTAS has stood firm in advancing Filipino Philosophy that concretely examines and actively transforms Philippine society.

Iba. Kritikal. Tasyo. UP KAPTAS upholds Pilosopo Tasyo, a seminal character in Dr. Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, as the embodiment of the essential qualities that must define Filipino philosophy: unwavering conviction, critical perspectives, and revolutionary thought. In doing so, the organization engenders the following objectives:

1. To strive towards the development of a Filipino Philosophy that is relevant to Philippine society.
2. To yield Filipino thinkers who are dedicated to the service of others.
3. To provide philosophy students a venue for their philosophical ventures.
4. To promote philosophy as a discipline.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

1. BANYUHAY

- a. An undergraduate philosophy conference that began online in 2021, which drew more than 50 registered participants. Its theme is "Pag-usbong ng Nakakubli," endeavoring "to challenge undergraduate students from varied disciplines to configure the philosophy landscape that is relevant to their social, historical, political, and cultural backgrounds."
- b. In its 2025 iteration, the organization hosted it onsite with the theme "Paggapanday sa Konsepto ng Bayan Tungo Sa Bagong Tipo ng Pamimilosopiya," which explored how the concept of "bayan" continues to shape Filipino identity, thought, and collective experience—especially in the face of changing historical, political, and cultural conditions.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

- i. **Nearly 50 presenters** from different universities in the Philippines participated in the conference, spanning different categories and topics.
- ii. Representatives from student philosophy organizations also engaged in the **roundtable discussion** during the event, which served as the **first step to building a long-term community of local philosophy organizations** that can support, collaborate, and grow with one another.



2. Alternative Classroom Learning Experience

- a. A flagship program conducted by the organization every school year, centering on a different topic and style as the term's theme demands.
- b. Some prominent installments include the following:
 - i. **"PUSHER: WAG TULARAN! An Interactive Philosophical Simulation of Epistemic Injustice and Duterte's War on Drugs" (2025):** It aimed to demonstrate and critically analyze the ways in which the Duterte administration did not merely commit epistemic injustice but willfully utilized it as a mechanism of governance.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

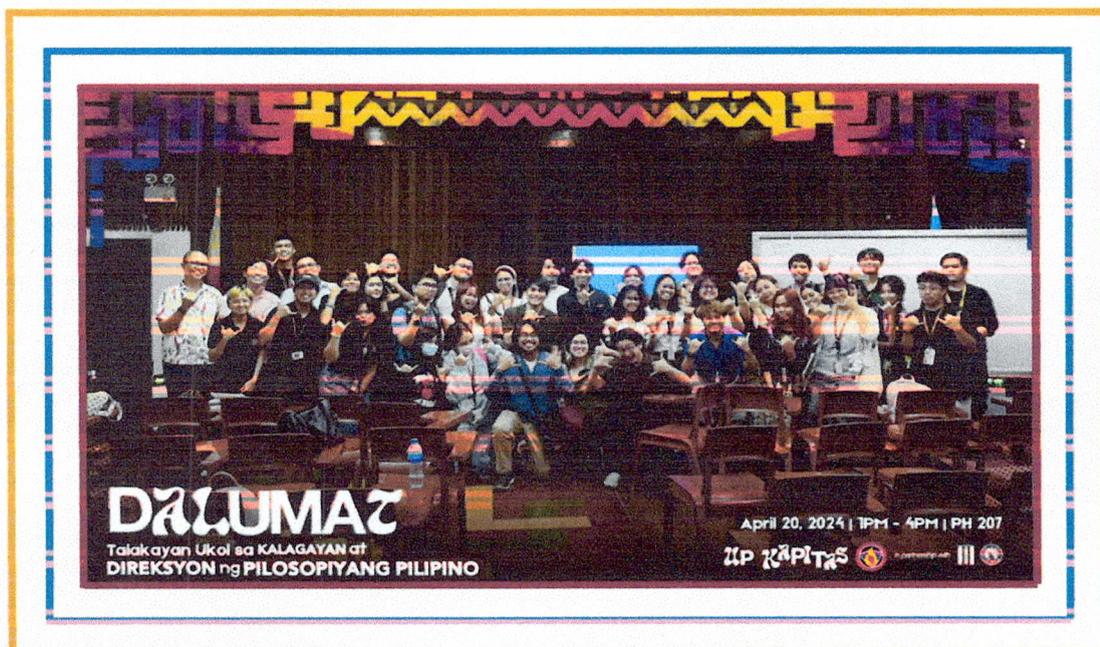
- i. Through a creative exposition of how epistemic injustice manifests in actual attempts to bring perpetrators to justice, the event demonstrated how epistemology can be a matter of life and death. There were nearly **80 participants**.
- ii. **"Conflict and Consensus: A Rawlsian Cha-Cha Simulator"** (2024): through an interactive game where participants try to resolve conflicts and build consensus, the organization tried to make sense of the philosophical underpinnings of the Marcosian charter change initiatives, then finding ways to turn their analysis into praxis. **Around 50 participants** joined.
- iii. **"Carved Out Promises: A Cutout Poetry Session on BBM & The Jeepney Phaseout"** (2023): Aimed to intersect aesthetics and political philosophy through cutout poetry as a protest art form. It discussed the ramifications of the jeepney phaseout and the true intent underlying it through the art of cutout poetry. It drew around 40 registrants.



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

3. DALUMAT

- a. Anniversary event of the organization, designed as a lecture or a series of talks exploring a certain theme.
- b. Some prominent installments include the following:
 - i. **“Talakayan Ukol sa Kalagayan at Direksyon ng Pilosopiyang Pilipino” (2024)**: A day-long discussion on the conditions and trajectory of Filipino Philosophy by Prof. Jeremiah Joven Joaquin of De La Salle University and Asst. Prof. Jairus Espiritu of Mapua University. Nearly 80 people registered.
 - ii. **“Serye ng mga Talakayan ukol sa Pilosopiyang Kontra-grahum sa Panahon ng Pasismo” (2022)**: A series of discussions by different faculty members of the university that aimed to unveil the mythmaking practices in Philippine society and how philosophy can serve as a counter-hegemonic weapon against it. **More than 100 participants** registered to join.



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

4. Socio-civic events

- a. **“Magtanim ay ‘Di Biro: Kalagayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Ilalim ng Mala-Pyudal at Makapitalistang Sistema” (2025):** The organization conducted a talk during Peasant Month with representatives from farmers’ and advocacy organizations to talk about the peasantry’s plights and their struggle for justice.
- b. **“Hindi Nadudukot Ang Katotohanan: Ang Papel ng Sambayanan sa Paglaban para sa Katarungan” (2024):** In partnership with Karapatan Central Luzon, the event gave space to Kabataan Partylist First Nominee Renee Co and environmental defender Eco Dangla to detail their own experience in organizing work and fighting for justice.
- c. **“Centering Feminist Narratives: Safe Guarding Feminist Spaces” (2024):** In partnership with Safecity Philippines during Women’s Month, this discussion explored means to curb violence against women and children in different spaces.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. TALASTASAN is **open to all bona fide junior and senior high school students** across the nation.
2. Mode of participation in the program is **onsite only**, within the vicinity of UP Diliman. It will only last for **one day** on Feb. 7, 2026.
3. All student participants are required to **wear their official school uniform**.
4. A participant can **only opt to join one competition**.
5. A school can have **two (2) representatives at most for the essay writing competition**, each of whom will be designated to a different medium.
 - a. One (1) participant for the English category.
 - b. One (1) participant for the Filipino category.
6. **Exactly five (5) participants** are needed to form a **team in the ethics bowl competition**. A school can only be represented by one team.
7. **Each school delegation may be accompanied by one (1) coach**, who is a teacher of the institution.
8. A two-step registration process must be completed to be considered an eligible participant.
 - a. **Slot reservation:** Schools must first register their participants online via <https://bit.ly/Talastasan2026Registration> to reserve their slots. This step confirms the school's intent to participate and provides the necessary details (names of participants, coach, etc.).
 - i. All online slot reservations must be completed on or before January 17.
 - b. **Fee payment:** Payment of the registration fee amounting to P300 can be completed after the slot reservation. Detailed payment instructions will be provided upon successful online registration. This can be done at a later date after the slot reservation has been made.
 - i. The registration fee per participant must be settled on or before January 17. Failure to pay by the deadline may result in the forfeiture of the reserved slots.
 - c. A final confirmation email will be sent to the coach once both registration and payment have been verified.
9. You are encouraged to follow the organization's Facebook page for more updates about the program: <https://www.facebook.com/upkapitas>.
10. The program for the event may be accessed in the next page.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

GENERAL EVENT FLOW	
TIMESLOT	ACTIVITY
7:00-8:00 AM	Registration of schools and participants
8:00-8:10 AM	Ingress and welcome by hosts
8:10-8:15 AM	National Anthem
8:15-8:20 AM	Opening remarks
8:20-8:30 AM	House rules and expectations
8:30-9:50 AM	Plenary 1: Introduction to Philosophy, Filipino Philosophy, and Career Prospects
9:50-10:00 AM	Short Break
10:00-12:00 PM	Parallel Competitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay Writing• Ethics Bowl Eliminations and Semifinals
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00-2:20 PM	Plenary 2: Ethics Bowl Finals
2:20-3:40 PM	Plenary 3: Philosophy and Social Issues
3:40-3:50 PM	Ice Breaker
3:50-4:40 PM	Awarding Ceremony & Photo-op

GENERAL GUIDELINES

GENERAL EVENT FLOW	
TIMESLOT	ACTIVITY
4:40-4:45 PM	Closing Remarks
4:45-5:00 PM	Egress

11. Any questions or inquiries regarding the event may be directed to Sean Marcus Ingalla through slingalla@up.edu.ph/09925545513 or Sofia Mendoza through sdmendoza3@up.edu.ph



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
UP KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO
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ESSAY WRITING



TALASTASAN

**PAGLINANG NG DUNONG PARA SA PILOSOPIYANG PILIPINO
AT KAMALAYANG PAMBANSA**

1st Nationwide Highschool Event of UP Kabataang PilosopoTasyo

ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION MECHANICS

1. General

- a. **All high school students** enrolled in any recognized institution are **eligible** to participate.
- b. Each school can only field **one (1) representative for the English** category and **one (1) for the Filipino** category.
- c. The competition will run for exactly **two (2) hours**.
- d. **No fact sheet** would be provided to the participants, but some of the information that may be useful to them could be drawn from the plenary talk.
- e. **The answer sheet and scratch paper will be provided by the organizers.** Participants, however, are expected to bring their own pen.
- f. Use of any other external materials, such as gadgets, is strictly prohibited and may lead to disqualification.

2. Essay Prompt and Process

- a. **The particular essay prompt will be disclosed at the program itself.** The topic is expected to revolve around the theme "Paglinang ng Dunong Para sa Pilosopiyang Pilipino at Kamalayang Pambansa," and is likely to be constituted by a **question about a Filipino philosophical concept and a relevant social issue.**
- b. Participants will be given a number prior to the competition. To ensure impartiality, judges will evaluate entries anonymously, so you are expected to only write your corresponding number on your answer sheet.
- c. All outputs would be submitted to the assigned proctor exactly after the two-hour mark has lapsed. No submission will be accepted after that period.
- d. **Winners will be awarded the same day.** The following are the accolades that can be bagged for both categories:
 - i. Champion
 - ii. First runner-up
 - iii. Second runner-up

3. Judging Criteria

- a. A panel of judges, all of whom are experts in their fields, will evaluate the entries based on the rubric in the next page.
- b. The decision of the judges is final and irrevocable.

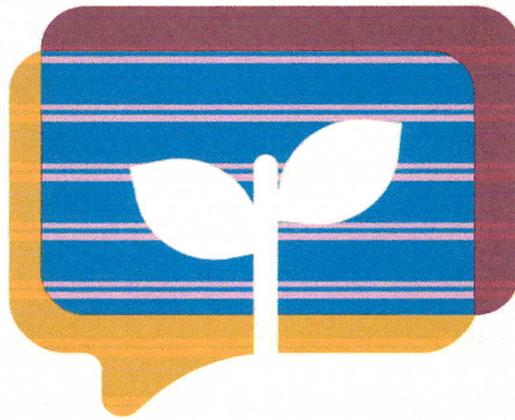
ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION MECHANICS

CRITERIA	POINTS
Content (depth of understanding, connection to the prompt, social relevance)	40%
Structure (organization of the essay, coherence of parts)	25%
Originality and impact (voice, logical sense, cogency of argumentation)	25%
Style (use of language, mechanics, grammar, linguistic precision)	10%
Total	100%



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ETHICS BOWL



TALASTASAN

**PAGLINANG NG DUNONG PARA SA PILOSOPIYANG PILIPINO
AT KAMALAYANG PAMBANSA**

1st Nationwide Highschool Event of UP Kabataang PilosopoTasyo

ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION MECHANICS

1. Introduction to Ethics Bowl

- a. An Ethics Bowl involves a **dialogue** where competing teams **construct their position on a certain moral and social problem** that they will then present and defend to the panel. It involves a collaborative exchange and reasoned debate.
- b. In developing their position, each team is expected to: (1) **answer the prompt in the case**; (2) **identify the theoretical or conceptual framework** that underpins their position; and (3) **offer a concrete proposal in relation to their answer**.
- c. Although it is akin to a debate competition in the sense that it is also argumentative, an ethics bowl contest is distinguished by the liberty it **accords the teams to postulate their own answer** to an open-ended case and **devise their strategy in approaching the question**.
 - i. **Unlike a debate match, the position in the ethics bowl is not assigned to the team**. They therefore do not need to compete as adversarials between the affirmative and opposition to a stance.
- d. The goal in an ethics bowl is to urge conversations, collaboration, and sharpening of creative positions on moral and social issues that hound the real world.
 - i. The way to win is to be able to advance the most nuanced, well-backed, and rigorously argued stance.
- e. A sample of a high school ethics bowl match may be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/EthicsBowlSample>.

2. Preparations

- a. A team must consist of exactly five (5) students.
 - i. All students must come from the same institution.
 - ii. A school can only field one team at most.
- b. A week before the event, a packet containing the list and details of ethical cases will be emailed to the registered teams.
- c. All teams are expected to prepare their position on the cases in the packet. Positions must be comprised of the following elements, among others:
 - i. Identification of the conflict.
 - ii. Citation of the philosophical framework to underpin the analysis of the conflict.
 - iii. Construct a stance and proposal, as needed, on the prompt given through logical argumentation.

ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION MECHANICS

1. Rounds

- a. The contest will be divided into three rounds:
 - i. Eliminations: All registered teams will compete with each other in the first round. No case will repeat.
 - ii. Semi-finals: Four of the top-scoring teams will face off at the semi-finals.
 - iii. Finals: Winners of the semi-finals shall advance to the finals.
- b. The eliminations and semi-final rounds will occur as parallel sessions.
- c. The final rounds will commence live in the main room, where all participants are expected to watch.

2. Competition Structure

- a. Each match will consist of two teams, a moderator, and panellists.
- b. All matches will draw from the cases in the packet sent before the competition.
- c. The flow of the competition is as follows:

Duration	Involved Team	Activity
2 minutes	Moderator	The moderator will read the case and flip a coin to determine the order of presentation.
1 minute	Team 1	Team confers about their presentation.
7 minutes	Team 1	Team presents its case; specifying its position, ethical framework, main analysis, and its recommendations.
2 minutes	Team 2	Team confers about their commentary and questions.
3 minutes	Team 2	Team gives its commentary and poses inquiries to the other team.

ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION MECHANICS

Duration	Involved Team	Activity
2 minutes	Team 1	Team confers about their response to the other team's commentary and questions.
3 minutes	Team 1	Team responds to the other team's commentary and questions.
1 minute	Team 2	Team confers about their presentation.
7 minutes	Team 2	Team presents its case; specifying its position, ethical framework, main analysis, and its recommendations.
2 minutes	Team 1	Team confers about their commentary and questions.
3 minutes	Team 1	Team gives its commentary and poses inquiries to the other team.
2 minutes	Team 2	Team confers about their response to the other team's commentary and questions.
3 minutes	Team 2	Team responds to the other team's commentary and questions.
10 minutes	Both teams and panelists	Panelists ask their questions to either team, and the teams will respond accordingly.
4 minutes	Panelists	Panelists finalize their grades.
1 minute	Moderator	Moderator announces the winner.

ETHICS BOWL COMPETITION MECHANICS

5. Criteria

- a. The panelists will evaluate the teams based on the following rubric below.
- b. The decision of the panelists is final and irrevocable.

RUBRIC	GRADE
Argumentation (logical structure, use of arguments, ethical theory)	30%
Relevance (faithfulness to the prompt, feasibility of proposal)	30%
Clarity (intelligibility of presentation, structure of position, coherence)	20%
Engagement (quality of questions, answers, receptivity)	20%
Total	100%



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO

We believe that an endorsement from the Department of Philosophy would greatly boost the credibility of this event and help us reach a wider audience. Attached herewith is the event primer for your perusal, which details the specific guidelines of the program and its competitions.

Thank you very much for your continued support in our endeavor to ensure that the discipline continues to thrive. We look forward to your favorable response.

Iba. Kritikal. Tasyo.

Noted by:

Carmell Angela T. Aguinaldo
Externals Committee Head
UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo

Chea M. Manalili
Suprema
UP Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo

Gavin Nigel L. Chuacuco
Organization Adviser

Marielle Antoinette H. Zosa
Organization Adviser

Approved by:

Ma. Liza Ruth A. Ocampo, PhD
Department of Philosophy Chairperson



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
KABATAANG PILOSOPO TASYO

9 December 2025

MA. LIZA RUTH A. OCAMPO

Chairperson

Department of Philosophy
University of the Philippines Diliman

Warm philosophical greetings!

We are the **University of the Philippines Kabataang Pilosopo Tasyo** (UP KAPITAS), a student organization registered under the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of the Philippines Diliman. Since our founding in 1990, we have been committed to advancing Filipino philosophy.

We are humbly seeking the **official endorsement** of your good office, Department of Philosophy, for our upcoming flagship high school event with the title "**TALASTASAN: Paglinang ng Dunong Para sa Pilosopiyang Pilipino at Kamalayang Pambansa,**" on **7 February 2026**, from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

This initiative stems from our observation that **the current educational landscape often prioritizes marketized models that eschew critical thinking for societal transformation.** With the humanities facing challenges globally and profit-driven programs taking precedence, we believe the imperative to instill a culture of critical thought among the youth is more exigent now than ever.

TALASTASAN serves as a response to this challenge. It is an event designed to provide high school students with a space to learn and be empowered to share their ideas. Our objectives include:

1. **Introducing Filipino Philosophy** as a discipline to high school students;
2. **Demonstrating the viability of philosophy** as a discipline to pursue in college and as a profession; and
3. **Developing the capacity** of the youth to rigorously argue and engage with social issues.

The whole-day event will feature two (2) plenary talks covering three different topics connected to our objectives. Additionally, students will demonstrate their philosophical aptitude through **parallel competitions**, specifically **Essay Writing** and an **Ethics Bowl**.