

Miss Universe Philippines 3rd runner-up in Brazil

Written by Administrator
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Miss Philippines Shamcey Supsup gestures during the Miss Universe pageant in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Sept. 12. Supsup was named third runner-up. (AP photo by Andre Penner)

MANILA — Miss Angola Leila Lopes, a business student from the town of Benguela in her home country, was crowned Miss Universe Monday after dazzling a panel of judges with her beauty and impressing them with her brain.

The Philippines' bet, Shamcey Supsup, flashed her beauty and wit en route to a third runner-up finish, the best ever for a Filipina since Miriam Quiambao placed 1st runner-up in the 1999 Miss Universe beauty pageant.

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Lopes, 25, laughed and smiled as she hugged runner-up Miss Ukraine Olesia Stefanko, then felt a crown placed carefully on her head at the pageant held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Earlier in the contest, Lopes had been asked by Lea Salonga what she might change about her physical characteristics if she could, but Lopes said she was satisfied with who she was.

“I consider myself a woman endowed with inner beauty,” she told the judges and the audience. “I have acquired many wonderful principles from my family, and I plan to follow those through the rest of my life.”

Lopes was the 60th winner of the prestigious annual pageant watched by millions of people around the world.

Miss Angola wore a bright bikini then paraded around the stage with poise in a form-fitting evening gown colored in gold and silver sequins and feathers.

In fan voting, Lopes tallied only a 3.6 score for the swimsuit but earned a 7.2 for her evening gown.

Fan voting, however, did not count in the final tallies from nine judges.

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