



# NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES



7 May 2019

## THE MANAGEMENT

Universal Realty Corporation et al  
431 Escolta St., Manila

Dear Sir/Madame,

It has come to our attention that there is an ongoing demolition of the Sta. Cruz Building located at 431 Escolta Street corner Plaza Sta. Cruz, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The Sta. Cruz Building, built in 1948, was a post-war building. Please be advised that under Article III, Section 5 of R.A. 10066, structures dating at least Fifty (50) years old are presumed Important Cultural Properties (ICPs) and thus, must be preserved and protected. Any developments must be coordinated first with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).

If the said report is accurate, then there could be a violation of Article III, Section 5 of Republic Act (R.A.) 10066, which is penalized under Article XIII, Section 48 and 49 of the heritage law.

In light of the foregoing, the NHCP is issuing, through this letter, a Cease and Desist Order under Section 25 of R.A. 10066. All activities affecting the Sta. Cruz Building are hereby suspended upon receipt of this order.

Kindly submit to us a copy of the as-built and development plan of the structure. We enjoin you not to undertake any action until a final development plan is approved by the NHCP. Please coordinate with the Historic Preservation Division at telephone numbers (02)3351200 loc. 134 to 135.

Very truly yours,

  
**DR. RENE R. ESCALANTE**  
Chairman

cc: **MAYOR JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
Manila City Hall, Metro Manila


**CHAIRMAN VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO**  
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

**DIRECTOR JEREMY M. BARNES**  
National Museum


NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Office of the Chairman


NCCA-PPFD  
Cultural Heritage Section

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