



PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING

17 August 2022

BENNIE B. CUANSON

Chief Executive Officer
Ascott Resources and Development Corporation
Stanford Building,
1870 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila

Subject: Cease and Desist Order Against the Demolition of the Old Capitol Theatre Building

Dear Mr. Cuanson,

Greetings from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)!

This is in reference to the reports we received regarding the complete demolition of the Capitol Theatre Building, a cultural property protected by R.A. No. 10066 against demolition or modification.

According to our source, your onsite contractor said that the “tower relic” is included in the total demolition of the existing structures of the Capitol Theatre. Also, the pictures forwarded to us yesterday, 16 August 2022, already shows considerable damage done to the tower due to the demolition.

As mentioned in our letter dated 09 July 2019, this Commission reiterated the previously approved and agreed *in-situ* bracing methodology which is the best approach to preserve the façade of the “tower relic”. You have likewise been advised by the Technical Working Council to revisit your design and/or methodology (architectural and structural) to adapt the proposed development to the existing structure. Any deviation from the aforementioned must be first evaluated and cleared and/or approved by this Commission.

Considering that no development plan or new methodology has been submitted to and approved by the NCCA, the ongoing demolition of the old Capitol Theatre Building is therefore done in violation of Section 48(a) of R.A. No. 10066. Moreover, by virtue of Section 25 of R.A. No. 10066, **Ascott Resources and Development Corporation** is hereby **ORDERED** to **CEASE AND DESIST** from further demolishing the old Capitol Theatre building and enact safety measures to ensure the integrity of what remains of the subject cultural property.

Attached hereto are the following:

1. Letter dated June 22, 2020 NCCA Follow up Letter to Ascott
2. Letter dated June 29, 2020 Ascott’s Request for Certification to NCCA
3. Letter dated July 1, 2020 NCCA Certification of Capitol Theatre to Ascott
4. Letter dated July 8, 2022 Ascott’s assurance of adherence to the in-sites Methodology
5. August 16, 2020 Photo Documentation of the Capitol Theater



Republic of the Philippines Office of the President

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

633 General Luna Street, Intramuros, 1002 Manila / Tel. 527-2192 to 98 / Fax 527-2191 & 94 / e-mail: info@ncca.gov.ph / website: www.ncca.gov.ph



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Should you have further concerns, you may reach Atty. Justin Caesar Q. Ortega, head of the Enforcement Section of the Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation Division at 527-2192 local 321/339 and/or E-mail: heritagelaw@ncca.gov.ph.

Very truly yours,

RENE R. ESCALANTE, Ph.D
Chairman

