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UST EXPELS 8 LAW STUDENTS IN FATAL HAZING OF 'ATIO' CASTILLO

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The University of Sto. Tomas (UST) has expelled eight of its students in the College of Civil Law who were allegedly involved in the fatal hazing of freshman law student Horacio "Atio" Castillo III last year.

The committee tasked to investigate issued its resolution dismissing the eight law students, but stopped short of disclosing their names.

A statement of UST published by The Varsitarian, the university's official student publication, read: "The University of Santo Tomas (UST) confirmed that the Committee tasked to investigate the death of Mr. Horacio Castillo III has issued its first resolution finding eight (8) law students guilty of violating the Code of Conduct and Discipline and imposing the supreme penalty of expulsion."

The committee, composed of six administrators, and a representative

from the Central Student Council, was formed by the UST Rector on Sept. 19, 2017. This group is responsible for conducting hearings in the presence of representatives from the Legal Education Board (LEB).

Although eight students have been expelled, UST said that it will "continue its investigation until all students who were involved in the hazing incident are held administratively liable."

The university said that it has closely coordinated with the Manila Police District (MPD) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), leading to the early identification of those involved and in filing of charges before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The university also reiterated that they closely coordinating with the different authorities who are handling Castillo's case.

The statement also said that the university's Office of Student Affairs (OSA) has conducted university-wide seminar for organization advisers and

student leaders on Anti-hazing Law, and recommended comprehensive review of the Student Handbook and the accreditation process for organizations.

The UST also issued "an indefinite moratorium on the recruitment and all other activities of all fraternities and sororities in the University."

The University also reiterated its "commitment to ferret out the truth,

determine liability, and impose the appropriate sanctions" and that they are always been "one with the Castillo family in the steadfast call for everyone to pray and work together to achieve justice for Horacio and for truth to prevail."

Authorities said that the 22-year-old Castillo, who attended the "welcoming rites" of the Aegis Juris Fraternity last Sept. 16, 2017, had died from a massive heart attack due to injuries he sustained from hazing.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, is conducting an investigation for disbarment of 21 lawyers, including UST Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina.

* Hazing
* Fraternities