

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 725



Introduced by **Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Flash floods hit Metro Manila on 3rd of July 2012.

The culprit, it appears, is that some 661 manholes and drainage inlets are missing if not plugged by private contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways while asphaltting thoroughfares in Metro Manila.

Manholes and drainage inlets, which if not missing, are otherwise plugged as a result of asphaltting partly contribute to flash floods in that those covered manholes become no longer accessible for flood control teams to declog.

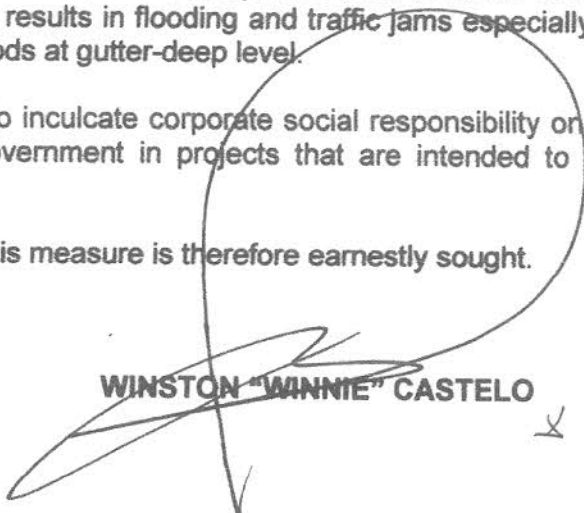
Private contractors must therefore be held responsible for this man-made disaster. In fact, they should be slapped with corresponding fines and penalties like withholding their retention fees or if they continue with this kind of work, be blacklisted from conducting government projects.

These manholes aid workers to remove silt and waste that clog canals and impede the flow of floodwater. Waste deposit buildups are hard to reach resulting in slow recession of flood water which results in flooding and traffic jams especially during incessant rains that easily cause floods at gutter-deep level.

It is the intention of this bill to inculcate corporate social responsibility on private contractors doing business with government in projects that are intended to prevent floods not cause them.

The immediate passage of this measure is therefore earnestly sought.

WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO



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AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRIVATE CONTRACTORS IN ROAD RELATED PROJECTS OF
GOVERNMENT FROM PLUGGING MANHOLES AND DRAINAGE INLETS AND
PROVIDING SANCTIONS THEREFOR

Be it enacted in Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Manholes and Drainage Inlets Preservation Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. Under this Act, all manholes and drainage inlets must be preserved in major thoroughfares of Metro Manila within the National Capital Region and no obstruction or plugging should be caused by private contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways in road related projects.

SEC. 3. It shall be prohibited for private contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways and their sub-contractors in road related projects to otherwise plug, obstruct, or cause the concreting or asphaltting of manholes and drainage inlets.

In case of violation under this Act, the penalty of withholding of retention fees and/or being blacklisted from conducting government projects shall be slapped against a private contractor or its sub-contractor found to cover, plug or obstruct existing manholes and drainage inlets.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,

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