A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PARTIALITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE VI (DA-RFO VI) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) IN FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MACHINERY FOR AGRICULTURAL NEEDS INCENTIVE (MANI) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, under the declared policy of the Republic Act No. 8435, or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, the State shall “enable those who belong to the agriculture and fisheries sectors to participate and share in the fruits of development and growth in a manner that utilizes the nation’s resources in the most efficient and sustainable way possible by establishing a more equitable access to assets, income, basic and support services and infrastructure.”;

WHEREAS, the same law ensures that the “State shall adopt a rational approach in the allocation of public investment in agriculture and fisheries in order to assure efficiency and effectiveness in the use of scarce resources and thus obtain optimal returns on its investment”; 

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office VI and the National Food Authority (NFA) in 2019 entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that implemented the Machinery for Agricultural Needs Incentive (MANI) Program in Western Visayas;
WHEREAS, the MANI program was initiated as a form of intervention to mitigate the effects of Republic Act No. 11203, or the rice tariffication law, by encouraging local rice farmers, through farmers’ cooperatives and associations, to sell their produce to the NFA, thereby ensuring the government of its rice buffer stock;

WHEREAS, farm machinery of different types shall be awarded to the farmer groups corresponding to the volume of palay delivered and sold to the NFA as provided by the incentive menu under the MANI program;

WHEREAS, following the mechanics of the MANI program, the Bukluran ng Progresibong Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (BPMP) Development Cooperative, Inc., a duly registered and accredited Iloilo province-wide farmers’ cooperative, delivered 90,000 bags of palay, covering the period of March-December 2019, as recorded in the NFA Master Passbook No. ILO-18-10-016;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding their submission of pertinent documents, including the Board Resolution, Statement of Deliveries, and copies of Master Passbook reflecting the volume of palay deliveries, the DA Western Visayas fail to grant the corresponding machinery due to BPMP despite having the highest record of palay delivery under the MANI program;

WHEREAS, over several inquiries on the status of their availment of machinery under the MANI program, the DA Western Visayas responded that they will grant a few of the machinery provided they will incur savings from the budget of the current fiscal year. However, in its article last 25 March 2021, they already awarded machinery to other farmer organizations, namely Sara Facoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the Aganan River Federation of Irrigators’ Association, who also participated in the same MANI program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives is urged to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the partiality of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office VI (DA-RFO VI) and the National Food Authority (NFA) in fulfilling their obligation to participating organizations in the Machinery for Agricultural Needs Incentive (MANI) Program.

Adopted,

ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

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