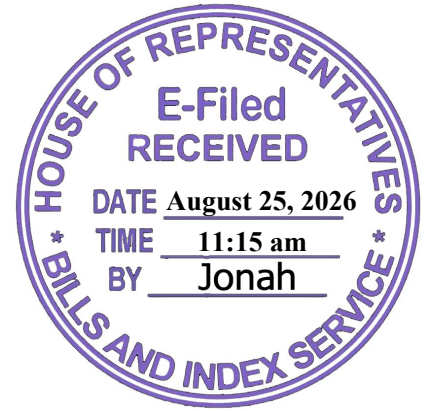


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10930



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
MANDATING THE FREE USE OF GOVERNMENT-DONATED FARM MACHINERY
AND EQUIPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7607, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA OF SMALL FARMERS"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino farmers play a vital role in ensuring the country's food security, yet many continue to struggle with rising production costs and limited access to affordable farm equipment. Although the government has invested billions of pesos in tractors and other agricultural machinery to help increase farm productivity, many small farmers are still required to pay service charges for using equipment that was purchased with public funds. As a result, the very assistance intended to ease their burden often remains beyond their financial reach, leaving many farmers with little choice but to rely on expensive private services or continue using labor-intensive methods.

This bill seeks to ensure that government assistance truly benefits the farmers it is meant to serve. It requires that government-donated farm machinery and equipment be made available to eligible small farmers without service charges, subject only to the cost of fuel and the availability of the equipment. The measure covers the first three hectares cultivated by each eligible farmer and may be availed of twice each year, allowing farmers to reduce production costs, cultivate more land, improve productivity, and invest more in their crops instead of spending scarce resources on machinery fees.

This measure reaffirms the State's commitment to supporting Filipino farmers and strengthening the agricultural sector. By making government-provided farm

machinery more accessible and affordable, the bill will help increase farm incomes, improve food production, and uplift the lives of farming families across the country. More importantly, it ensures that public funds allocated for agricultural assistance produce meaningful and lasting benefits for those who feed the nation.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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

SECTION 1. Amendment of Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7607. — The second paragraph of Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7607, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta of Small Farmers”, is hereby amended to read as:

“Sec. 18. Availability of Farm Machinery and Equipment.
— X X X

“The Government shall support the farmers in acquiring their inventory of farm equipment. With the use of grants-in-aid, as well as other domestic and foreign funds, the Government shall acquire and distribute to farmers’ organization farm equipment and machinery so as to increase their productive capabilities[.]: **PROVIDED, THAT IN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT OR DEED OF DONATION TO THE FARMER’S ORGANIZATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL REQUIRE THAT THE USE OF SUCH FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF RICE, CORN, AND OTHER GRAINS, INCLUDING LAND PREPARATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OR ORCHARDS AND OTHER HIGH-VALUE CROPS SHALL BE PROVIDED FREE, EXCEPT COST OF FUEL, FOR THE FIRST THREE (3)**

HECTARES OF FARMLAND TILLED BY EACH FARMER AND SHALL BE EXTENDED TWICE A YEAR. The funding requirement for this undertaking shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Agriculture.”

SECTION 2. Funding. — The Department of Agriculture shall include in its annual budget the amount necessary to support the implementation of this Act, including expenses for monitoring, training, inspection, and, when authorized under the General Appropriations Act, the repair and maintenance of government-donated farm machinery and equipment.

The implementation of this Act shall be complementary and supplementary to, and shall not replace, existing programs for agricultural mechanization and assistance.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,