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CITY ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE PRIORITIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF CROPS FROM LOCAL FARMERS AT REASONABLE PRICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Sponsored by:

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WHEREAS, Paragraph 1, Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;

WHEREAS, the same Constitutional provision states, among others, that the State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources and are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets, and that in the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that every local government unit (LGU) shall exercise the powers for the promotion of the general welfare, and shall, among others, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, Section 17 of the same Code states that LGUs are mandated to provide basic services and facilities including those necessary to support agriculture and promote agricultural productivity within their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8435 or the "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997" declares as State policy to promote food security, including sufficiency in our staple food, namely rice and white corn, and that the production of rice and white corn shall be optimized to meet our local consumption and shall be given adequate support by the State;

WHEREAS, the City Government recognizes the vital role of local farmers in ensuring food security, supporting the local economy, and preserving agricultural traditions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the market access of local farmers in Tuguegarao City and protect them from exploitative pricing and unfair competition;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City Government to promote inclusive and sustainable economic development through support of local agricultural producers;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize mechanisms that prioritize the procurement of crops from local farmers in Tuguegarao City to ensure sustainable agricultural livelihoods and stimulate the local economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **ORDAINED** by the 10th Sangguniang Panlungsod of Tuguegarao, in session assembled:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as the *"Local Farmers Crop Procurement Priority Ordinance of Tuguegarao City."*

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It shall be the policy of the City Government of Tuguegarao to promote sound agricultural development to ensure a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth for local farmers in the City. Towards this end, the City shall prioritize the procurement of crops and other agricultural products from registered local farmers and farmers' cooperatives or associations (FCAs).

Further, the City shall ensure that local farmers are paid a fair and reasonable price for their produce, and shall strengthen the local agricultural supply chain and reduce dependence on external sources.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms are defined:

a) Local Farmers – Individuals or organized groups engaged in crop production who reside and cultivate land within the territorial jurisdiction of Tuguegarao City, and are duly registered with the City Agriculture Office and enrolled in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

b) Farmers Cooperatives – Organizations composed primarily of farmers who voluntarily join together to form a legally recognized cooperative, duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), with the purpose of pooling resources to access support services, improve productivity, and enhance market access.

c) Farmers Associations – Organized groups of farmers, whether formally registered or recognized by the City Agriculture Office or Department of Agriculture, formed primarily for mutual support, capacity building, and collective representation. Together with Farmers Cooperatives, they shall be collectively referred to as Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs).

d) Reasonable Price – A fair market value for crops as determined and regularly updated by the City Agriculture Office in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including representatives from FCAs. It shall ensure both a just income for local farmers and affordability for the City Government.

e) Crops – Agricultural products cultivated for consumption, trade, or other purposes, including but not limited to vegetables, fruits, grains, legumes, and root crops.

f) Procurement – The process undertaken by the City Government to acquire goods, in this case, crops, for use in government programs such as public feeding initiatives, disaster relief, city-sponsored events, and other official functions, in accordance with applicable procurement laws and policies of relative agencies such as, but not limited to, Department of Budget and Management;

g) Priority – The act of giving preferential consideration or treatment to local farmers and FCAs in the procurement process, provided that quality and price standards are met in accordance with this Ordinance and relevant procurement guidelines.

h) RSBSA (Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture) – An official database maintained by the Department of Agriculture containing verified information on farmers, fisherfolk, and other agricultural stakeholders, which serves as a requirement for accessing government agricultural programs, subsidies, and interventions.

SECTION 4. MANDATORY PRIORITY PROCUREMENT FROM LOCAL FARMERS. All departments under the City Government that require crops for any city-funded activity or

program shall procure at least 60% of their total crop requirements from local farmers or FCAs, subject to availability.

SECTION 5. PRICE DETERMINATION. The City Agriculture Office shall primarily determine the reasonable price of procurement of crops and shall also perform the following incidental duties:

- a) Conduct regular assessments of market prices.
- b) Establish and update a price reference list for crops.
- c) Ensure that purchasing prices remain fair to both the farmer and the City Government.
- d) Prices shall reflect production costs, seasonal factors, and market conditions.

SECTION 6. ACCREDITATION AND DATABASE. The City Agriculture Office shall maintain an updated registry and database of the following:

- a) Accredited local farmers and FCAs.
- b) Types and volumes of crops available per season.
- c) Pricing and delivery capabilities.

SECTION 7. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND SUPPORT. The City Agriculture Office shall provide training, access to funding, and logistical support to help local farmers meet supply and quality requirements.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING RULES. The City Mayor's Office with the City Agriculture Office shall formulate within 90 days from the approval and effectivity of this Ordinance the implementing rules and regulations to efficiently enforce this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. Heads of offices or departments who unjustifiably fail to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall face administrative sanctions in accordance with civil service rules and regulations, upon recommendation of the City Legal Office.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, or issuances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall be effective upon the upholding of its validity by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Cagayan and the eventual fifteen (15) days publication thereafter.