



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 33
Series of 2025

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PROVINCIAL BAIS WASTEWATER SPILL RESPONSE TASK FORCE TO COORDINATE, FACT-FIND, AND RESPOND TO THE WASTEWATER SPILL IN BAIS CITY, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF AFFECTED LGUs, NATIONAL AGENCIES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.

WHEREAS, Section 465(b)(1), 465(b)(2), and 465(b)(1)(xvi) of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) empower the Provincial Governor, as local chief executive, to issue executive orders for the enforcement of laws and ordinances, to direct and coordinate local government and interagency actions, and to call upon national and local officials for cooperation in matters of public welfare;

WHEREAS, the Governor, as chairperson of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC), is authorized under Republic Act No. 10121 to lead and organize coordinated and multi-sectoral disaster response and risk management operations within the province;

WHEREAS, on or about October 26, 2025, a containment lagoon of the Universal Robina Corporation (URC) Bais Distillery collapsed, discharging wastewater that gravely affected coastal barangays, marine environments, and communities in Bais City, the Municipality of Manjuyod and neighboring areas;

WHEREAS, the Provincial Government, through the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), has already undertaken significant relief and assistance efforts to support the affected localities and communities; however, the scale and complexity of the impact demand further coordinated and expanded intervention to ensure effective recovery, accountability, and long-term welfare;

WHEREAS, national agencies and local government units have mobilized responses, but there remains urgent need for unified, evidence-based, and participatory action at the provincial level;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MANUEL L. SAGARBARRIA, Provincial Governor of Negros Oriental, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. CREATION OF THE PROVINCIAL BAIS WASTEWATER SPILL RESPONSE TASK FORCE (PBWSRTF). There is hereby created the PBWSRTF, chaired by the Provincial Administrator, with the head of the ENRD as Vice-Chairperson.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP. The Task Force shall be composed of:

- a) Heads of the Provincial DRRM Office, Health Office, Social Welfare and Development Office, Tourism Office, Agriculture Office, Information Office, and Legal Office;
- b) The Chairperson of the Committee on the Environment of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;
- c) Mayors or designated representatives of affected LGUs (City Government of Bais and Municipality of Manjuyod);

d) Representatives of the involved national agencies: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and Tañon Strait Protected Area Management Board (TSPS-PAMB);

e) Representatives from the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management and Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences;

g) Other individuals or organizations as may be invited for comprehensive response;

SECTION 3. FACT-FINDING. The PBWSRTF is mandated to conduct a thorough multisectoral fact-finding assessment in partnership with all members, including scientific analysis, site inspection, evidence gathering, and impact and cost assessment.

SECTION 4. COORDINATED RESPONSE AND MONITORING. The Task Force shall harmonize all actions among provincial, local, and national government partners, the academe, and NGOs to ensure a unified response and recovery plan.

SECTION 5. RECOMMENDATORY POWERS. The Task Force is empowered to identify gaps, issues, and opportunities in the ongoing response and recovery initiatives, and to make recommendations regarding such additional actions, programs, or measures as may be deemed necessary or appropriate for the Provincial Government to undertake in accordance with its authority and responsibilities under the Local Government Code and other relevant laws.

SECTION 6. PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. The PBWSRTF shall provide timely updates, facilitate consultations, and engage stakeholders to ensure accountability and encourage community feedback.

SECTION 7. RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION. The Task Force shall recommend appropriate resource allocations and maintain thorough documentation of its actions, findings, and decisions.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 3rd day of November 2025, in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.


MANUEL L. SAGARBARRIA
Governor