



NATIONAL DEFENCE STRATEGY BILL, 2025

Presented to the Parliament of the Republic of Ruekehi by Honourable MR Ally, Minister of Defence, on behalf of the Government

Bill No.: RPS/02/2025

Date: 22nd June 2025

Sponsor: Prime Minister (Peoples Movement for Democracy – PMD)

Co-Sponsors: Prime Minister; Ministers of Finance, Interior & Justice, Foreign Affairs, Transport & Communication

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTIVES AND REASONS

Whereas the Republic of Ruekehi's security environment has evolved rapidly following years of authoritarian rule, civil war and regional instability;

Whereas the threats to our sovereignty, territorial integrity and citizen security include incursions by Zikomo separatists, narcotics and arms trafficking by the "Drug Clan," and banditry;

Whereas existing defence and security forces are critically under-resourced, over-staffed, under-trained and excessively burdened by personnel costs, limiting their ability to confront contemporary threats;

Whereas institutional weaknesses—corruption, lack of transparency, and scant civilian oversight—undermine public confidence and threaten democratic consolidation;

Whereas our national budget faces unsustainable debt-service obligations, necessitating a prudent multi-year reduction in defence expenditures to free resources for social and economic development;

Whereas the people of Ruekehi demand a professional, accountable, and effective defence establishment, integrated with police, intelligence and diplomatic instruments of statecraft;

Now therefore, this Bill establishes the envisaged National Defence Strategy Act, 2025—a comprehensive framework to transform Ruekehi’s defence posture through rationalized manpower, modernized force structure, robust civilian oversight, and sustainable budgeting, in alignment with the National Strategic Vision Act, 2025.

PART I: STRATEGIC CONTEXT & THREAT ASSESSMENT

Section 1: National Security Environment

1.1 Internal Threats

(a) ***The "Drug Clan":*** This sophisticated criminal network dominates the South-Western Province, controlling an estimated 20% of national GDP through illicit cannabis cultivation and trafficking. Verified intelligence confirms operational alliances with Zikomo-based separatist groups, including shared training facilities, weapons procurement channels, and coordinated assassination campaigns targeting state officials. Their explicit objective is the establishment of an autonomous "Southern Republic" through destabilization of the central government.

(b) ***Ethno-Political Fragility:*** Historical grievances stemming from colonial-era patronage of the Sandawi minority (25% of population) and subsequent Chogo-dominated authoritarian rule (1995–2020) create fertile ground for radicalization. Military intelligence assessments indicate a "Moderate-High" risk (Confidential Threat Matrix 2024) of coup attempts by revanchist factions within the Ruekehi Nationalist Party (RNP) and senior military ranks opposed to democratic reforms.

(d) ***Institutional Decay:***

(i) **Police Service:** Chronic underfunding has resulted in 70% of personnel lacking basic firearms proficiency, while institutional corruption erodes public trust and operational effectiveness.

(ii) **Judiciary:** A backlog exceeding 5 years for major cases and a 0% conviction rate for corruption-related offenses (UNODC 2023 Report) perpetuate impunity and undermine the rule of law.

1.2 Regional Threats

(a) **Zikomo Instability Spillover:** The presence of 200,000 refugees has overwhelmed social services in southern provinces, while cross-border banditry disrupts critical mining operations (documented losses: ≈300 million RS annually). Zikomo-based militant factions, utilizing arms smuggled through ungoverned territories, conduct asymmetric raids targeting economic infrastructure.

(b) *Unresolved Territorial Disputes:*

(i) **Ujima Border Conflict:** The contested mineral-rich Lake Liuli basin remains a flashpoint since the 1997 invasion. Recent Ruekehian mineral exploration activities north of the lake have triggered formal Ujima protests to EDECO, while Ruekehi accuses Ujima of tacitly harbouring Chogo separatist cells in border villages.

(ii) **Tangaza Claims:** Tangaza's unresolved sovereignty claim over the oil-bearing islands in Lake Vomela, coupled with its annual subsidy of 30 million RS (framed as "ethnic solidarity"), creates latent tensions and conditions for economic coercion.

(c) **Regional Security Mechanism Deficiencies:** Ujima's dominance of RESECO (chairing 85% of decision-making forums) fuels Tangaza's ambitions to assume leadership, fracturing collective security efforts. This institutional distrust impedes coordinated responses to trafficking and terrorism.

1.3 Transnational Threats

(a) **Non-State Armed Groups:** Al-Shabaab affiliates exploit porous borders to establish logistical cells, while drug trafficking syndicates operate European distribution networks via Ujima's port infrastructure.

(b) **HIV/AIDS Pandemic:** The virus affects approximately 40% of military personnel, with the loss of 100 senior officers (2018–2024) critically degrading institutional memory, command capabilities, and operational readiness.

PART II: NATIONAL DEFENCE VISION & PRINCIPLES

Section 2.1: National Strategic Vision

"By 2045, Ruekehi shall be a secure, united, and prosperous democratic nation, governed justly under the rule of law—where every citizen lives with dignity and equal opportunity, and actively contributes to a stable, peaceful, and cooperative region."

Section 2.2: Defence Strategic Vision

"To establish a modern, agile, and self-reliant defence force that ensures national security, supports regional stability, and contributes to global peace through innovation, professionalism, and strategic partnerships by 2045".

Section 3: Foundational Principles

3.1 Sovereignty with Responsibility: Defence operations shall strictly comply with Ruekehi Constitution, the AU Non-Aggression Principle, and Article 51 of the UN Charter prioritizing diplomatic conflict resolution.

3.2 Human Security Primacy: National security policy shall prioritize citizen safety, dignity, and economic rights as enshrined in the Ruekehi Constitution, AU - Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratified 2004).

3.3 Democratic Accountability: Parliamentary authorization shall be mandatory for all deployments exceeding 100 personnel. The Ministry of Defence shall submit quarterly expenditure audits for public scrutiny.

3.4 Regional Indivisibility of Security: Ruekehi shall champion reform of EDECO/RESCO to establish equitable burden-sharing and decision-making frameworks for collective threat response.

3.5 Fiscal Sustainability: Defence expenditure shall be reducing however, without compromising operational capability.

PART III: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & IMPLEMENTATION

Section 4: Foundational National Objectives

4.1 Effective Statecraft and Anti-Corruption

(a) Implement mandatory asset declaration for senior officers and officials and enforceable through IACC authority.

4.2 Comprehensive Defence Sector Reform

(a) Establish a Defence Ethics Commission to vet senior military appointments and investigate human rights violations.

(b) Downsize/right size the military establishment by reducing active personnel from 120,000 to 85,000 by 2030 through phased volunteer retirement (7,200/year), prioritizing aged equipment operators and administrative redundancies.

(c) Modernization of the Military including but not limited to training, equipment's and incentives.

(d) Enhancing regional and international military cooperation through bilateral agreements etc.

5.2 Integrated Counter-Trafficking and Border Security

(a) Create a National Counter-Trafficking Task Force (NCTTF) combining military intelligence police, customs, and financial crime units under a unified command.

(b) Deploy long-endurance surveillance capabilities covering the South-Western Province and Zikomo border, integrated with biometric screening systems at border posts.

5.3 Health Security

(a) Implement comprehensive HIV/AIDS reduction measures in collaborations with other partners.

PART IV: REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

5.1 Integrated Border Management System

(a) Deploy combined Ruekehi-Ujima border units in Lake Liuli basin with joint command authority and shared surveillance assets.

(b) Establish military cooperations between neighbouring countries.

(c) Assist and cooperate with other security organs for integrated border management.

PART V: GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

6.1 Accountability Mechanisms

Establish internal accountability procedures under the preview of Parliamentary Oversight Committee.

6.2 Strategic Defence Review Cycle

Established procedures for annual public reports to Parliament detailing strategy implementation, expenditure variances, and threat evolution.

CONCLUSION

This National Defence Strategy represents a decisive rupture with Ruekehi's patrimonial past and a covenant with its citizens: to exchange the hollow strength of militarized autocracy for the resilient power of democratic legitimacy; to transform security institutions from instruments of oppression into servants of public safety; and to replace regional suspicion with cooperative solidarity. By anchoring our defence in the bedrock of justice, development, and human dignity, we redeem the promise of our democratic awakening and secure our place in a stable African community. We solemnly urge this Honourable Parliament to enact this Strategy into law as the foundation of our national renewal.

Submitted in the capital city of Liuli this 21th day of June 2025,

Honourable Mr. Mohamed Ramadhani Ally, Minister of Defence

Government of the Republic of Ruekehi