

Ruekehi National Defence Strategy (NDS) (2025-2030)

Executive Summary

The Republic of Ruekehi stands at a critical juncture, having emerged from a civil war and a historic democratic transition. It faces existential threats that challenge its very sovereignty, unity, and future prosperity. The primary challenges are **critical internal insecurity** driven by the paramilitary Drug Clan and deep-seated **ethnic-political instability**. These are compounded by weak state institutions, economic fragility due to oil dependence, and a complex, often hostile, regional environment.

Motto: *"Safeguarding Sovereignty, Unity, and Democratic Peace"*

VISION

To establish a professional, capable, and accountable defence force that protects Ruekehi's sovereignty, defends its territorial integrity, supports democratic governance, and contributes to regional peace and stability.

MISSION

To provide strategic defence capabilities that deter external aggression, neutralise internal armed threats, secure national borders, and contribute to national development and disaster response.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SECURITY ENVIRONMENT & THREAT ANALYSIS

Threat	Description	Impact Level
Drug Clan & Organized Crime	Paramilitary buildup, assassination attempts, narcotics trade	Critical
Ethnic Tensions	Legacy of exclusion (Chogo–Sandawi divide), risk of ethnic violence	High
Separatist Movements	Zikomo and Baturi insurgents with foreign links	High
Weak Institutions	Underequipped security forces, a corrupt judiciary, and poor intelligence	High
Foreign Interference	Political and military meddling from Tangaza and Ujima	Medium
Refugee Burden	200,000+ displaced persons from Zikomo, with border insecurity	Medium
Economic Fragility	Oil dependence, corruption, informal economy, and youth unemployment	High

CORE DEFENCE OBJECTIVES

- 1. Defend Ruekehi’s territorial integrity and sovereignty
- 2. Counter and suppress internal armed threats (e.g., Drug Clan, separatists)
- 3. Deter foreign aggression and subversion
- 4. Support civil authority in times of national crisis (natural disasters, insurgency)
- 5. Participate in peacekeeping and regional stabilization missions
- 6. Promote national unity, professionalism, and civil-military trust

Strategic Pillars:

- 1. **Force Restructuring and Professionalization:** Modernize the force into three components: **Land Forces** (Counterinsurgency), **Strategic Border Guard Command**, and a **Civil Support Unit** (Disaster relief, civic tasks).
- 2. **Territorial Defence and Border Security:** Establish Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and use modern technology (drones, sensors) for surveillance.
- 3. **Internal Stabilization and Counter-Insurgency:** Deploy Rapid Reaction Battalions (RRBs) trained in special operations to dismantle the Drug Clan.
- 4. **Human Capital Development:** Launch a Defence Academy, promote ethnic diversity in recruitment, and establish a strict Code of Conduct.
- 5. **Democratic Oversight:** Place the military firmly under the Ministry of Defence, strengthen parliamentary oversight, and establish an Independent Military Ombudsman.

Force Structure Target (By 2030): To be reduced by 40% (to 72,000 from 120,000)

Branch	Target Personnel	Percentage %	Purpose
Land Forces	45,000	62.5%	National defence, counterinsurgency
Border Guard	9,000	12.5%	Surveillance, checkpoints, interdiction
Civil Support Unit	5,400	7.5%	Disaster response, civic work
Reserve Force	12,600	17.5%	Mobilization for national emergencies
Total	72,000	100%	<i>A leaner, more professional force than the current 120,000</i>

NATIONAL DEFENCE BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The NDS proposes a multi-year budget allocation under the MTEF to rebuild the force. This breakdown allocates the **560M RS**, almost **16%** of the National Budget.

Defence Budget Allocation (2025/2026)

Category	Budget Allocation (M RS)	% of Defence Budget	Strategic Purpose
Equipment & Modernization	168	30%	Purchase new equipment, replacing obsolete Soviet-era gear. Focus on light infantry, surveillance tech, and transport.
Personnel & Welfare	140	25%	Fund salaries, healthcare (incl. HIV/AIDS programs), and a fair retirement/downsizing package for the bloated force.
Infrastructure & Surveillance	112	20%	Build and equip Forward Operating Bases, a national surveillance network and Presidential protection
Training & Capacity Building	84	15%	Fund the new Defence Academy, joint exercises, and specialized training for Rapid Reaction Battalions.
Civil-Military Engagement & Oversight	56	10%	Support the Military Ombudsman, public outreach programs, and the Civil Support Unit's activities.
Total	560	100%	

Funding Sources:

- Government allocations (from oil & tax revenue)
- Peacekeeping reimbursements (UN/AU)
- Foreign military aid (conditional and transparent)

MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY

- Annual **Defence White Paper** to be tabled before Parliament
- Establish the **Internal Inspectorate-General for Military Affairs**
- Launch **Military Audit Division** under the Office of the Auditor General

- Enable **civil society oversight** and reporting on defence conduct

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Year	Key Milestone
2025	Pass Defence Reform Law, Launch Security Sector Audit
2026	Establish National Defence Academy & Ombudsman
2027	Deploy Rapid Reaction Units, Begin Local Manufacturing
2028	Complete Border Surveillance Network
2029	Begin Joint Regional Defence Exercises
2030	Review Strategy & Release National Defence Status Report

CONCLUSION

Ruekehi’s National Defence Strategy (2025 - 2030) is a bold roadmap to rebuild the military into a modern, inclusive, and accountable force. It prioritises defence readiness, internal stability, and regional cooperation to protect democracy and secure the future of all Ruekehians.