

Defense Expansion Act 2025

A Bill

to strengthen the national defense of Square Country; to increase funding, modernize capabilities, and improve efficiency in the management and oversight of the armed forces; and to provide for related matters.

Part I – Preliminary Provisions

1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the **Defense Expansion Act 2025**.

2. Commencement

(1) This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by Order in Council made by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

(2) Different dates may be appointed for different Parts or provisions of this Act.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) increase funding allocated to defense to ensure national security;
- (b) modernize the armed forces through acquisition of advanced equipment, infrastructure, and technology;
- (c) enhance the readiness, capability, and efficiency of the military;
- (d) ensure transparency, accountability, and proper oversight in defense expenditure; and
- (e) promote the welfare and training of military personnel.

4. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- “Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, and any other service established under law.
- “Commissioner” means the Chief of Defense Administration appointed under section 10.
- “Department” means the Department of Defense.
- “Minister” means the Prime Minister acting as Minister of Defense.
- “Funding” means all appropriated sums allocated for defense purposes.

- “Officers” means persons employed by the Department of Defense in the performance of its functions.

5. Binding Effect

This Act binds the Crown in right of Square Country.

6. Act to be Read with Other Enactments

This Act shall be read together with all other defense-related enactments, except where inconsistent.

7. Principles of Defense Administration

All persons exercising powers or functions under this Act shall be guided by the following principles—

- (a) Efficiency and effectiveness in use of defense resources;
 - (b) Transparency and accountability in expenditure;
 - (c) Readiness and preparedness for national security needs;
 - (d) Welfare and fair treatment of military personnel; and
 - (e) Strategic modernization and capability development.
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Part II – Establishment and Administration

8. Establishment of the Department of Defense

(1) There is hereby established a department of state to be known as the **Department of Defense**.

(2) The Department shall be responsible for the administration of defense forces, expenditure, and policies.

(3) The Department shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, a common seal, and power to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

9. Functions of the Department

The functions of the Department are to—

- (a) manage and allocate defense funding;
- (b) oversee procurement, maintenance, and modernization of equipment;
- (c) ensure operational readiness of all branches of the armed forces;
- (d) provide advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on defense policy and strategic planning;
- (e) maintain training, welfare, and education programs for military personnel;
- (f) audit, monitor, and report on the use of defense resources; and
- (g) perform any other function conferred by this or any other enactment.

10. Chief of Defense Administration

(1) There shall be a **Chief of Defense Administration**, who shall be the chief executive of the Department.

- (2) The Chief shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.
- (3) The Chief shall hold office for a term not exceeding five years and may be reappointed.
- (4) The Chief shall act independently in managing defense funds and operations.

11. Deputies and Other Officers

- (1) The Chief may appoint Deputy Chiefs and other officers as required.
- (2) Officers shall perform duties as delegated and take oaths of fidelity and secrecy.

12. Independence and Accountability

- (1) The Department shall operate independently and free from political interference in day-to-day operational decisions.
- (2) Oversight shall be provided by the Auditor-General and the Parliamentary Defense Committee.

13. Divisions of the Department

The Department shall include, but is not limited to—

- (a) Operations and Strategy Division;
- (b) Procurement and Modernization Division;
- (c) Personnel and Welfare Division;
- (d) Finance and Budget Division;
- (e) Intelligence and Cybersecurity Division; and
- (f) Legal and Compliance Division.

14. Advisory Committees

The Minister may establish advisory committees to advise on defense strategy, technology, and expenditure efficiency.

15. Annual Reports

- (1) The Chief shall submit annual reports on defense funding usage, modernization progress, and readiness levels.
 - (2) Reports shall be laid before Parliament.
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Part III – Defense Funding Framework

16. Funding Allocation

- (1) Parliament shall allocate increased funding to the Department of Defense annually to ensure operational readiness and modernization.
- (2) The Department may redistribute funds internally among divisions to meet strategic priorities.

17. Expenditure Principles

All defense expenditure shall follow principles of—

- (a) Transparency;
- (b) Efficiency;
- (c) Strategic necessity;
- (d) Personnel welfare; and
- (e) Accountability.

18. Procurement and Modernization

- (1) The Department shall modernize equipment and infrastructure according to prescribed regulations.
- (2) Procurement contracts shall be awarded in accordance with principles of fairness and competitiveness.

19. Operational Readiness

The Department shall ensure that the Armed Forces maintain readiness levels consistent with national security requirements, including personnel training, maintenance of equipment, and strategic deployments.

Part IV – Oversight and Reporting

20. Auditor-General Oversight

The Auditor-General shall audit all defense expenditure and report to Parliament annually.

21. Parliamentary Reporting

The Minister shall submit reports to Parliament on—

- (a) funding allocations and expenditures;
- (b) modernization and procurement progress; and
- (c) readiness and capability metrics.

22. Transparency and Accountability

All officers shall maintain records and provide documentation to ensure public accountability of defense funds.

Part V – Miscellaneous and Final Provisions

23. Regulations

The Minister may, on recommendation of the Chief, make regulations for—

- (a) Allocation and management of funds;
- (b) Procurement and acquisition;
- (c) Personnel and training standards; and
- (d) Operational procedures for readiness.

24. Protection from Liability

No action shall lie against the Minister, Chief, or officers for any act done in good faith under this Act.

25. Review of Operation

The Minister shall cause a review of the operation of this Act five years after commencement to assess effectiveness, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

26. Commencement

This Act shall come into force on 1 April of the year following its passage or on such earlier date as appointed by the Governor-General by Order in Council.

27. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the **Defense Expansion Act 2025**.