



Immediate Policy of the Minister of Defence for Fiscal Year 2023 (1st of October 2022 - 30th September 2023)



The immediate policy of the Minister of Defence for the 2023 Fiscal Year (1st of October 2022 - 30th September 2023) directs all agencies of the Ministry of Defence and those under the supervision of the Minister of Defence to give priority to driving forward the Royal Thai Government's immediate policy in order to continue driving the country under the government's policy of **"Unifying Thailand, Building the Nation"** and develop the Ministry's potential by integrating with all sectors to revitalise the economy and driving the country forward, after the continuous alleviation of the COVID - 19 pandemic, so that Thailand can advance its development in a secure, safe and sustainable manner. In addition, the 2023 Fiscal Year is regarded as an important starting point for all sectors to cooperate and implement national strategy phase 2 (2023 - 2027). The Ministry of Defence shall continue pursuing our immediate policy to achieve a concrete result, comprised of 1) Strengthening the country's security and safety, 2) Reforming the armed forces and promoting good governance and 3) Supporting the government's effort in resolving the country's major problems as follow.

1. Strengthening the country's security and safety

1.1 Attach the greatest importance and priority to upholding and protecting the monarchy with full Ministry's potential so that the monarchy strongly and sustainably serves as a strong unifying institution



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at the centre of the people's hearts and minds. The Ministry is to provide a good understanding of the monarchy's role and importance through publicly distribution biography detailing information regarding Royal Duties, the principle of work and the kindness of every Majesty and Royal Family members to the Thai people. There are the apply and implement in performing duty and for national development, and to organize Royal celebration activities in an appropriate time to reflect the long relationship between the Monarchy and people which cannot be separated.

1.2 Support the Royal Initiative Volunteer Project Operations Centre and the Royal Thai Volunteers School to implement different projects efficiently, with a focus on participation in various sectors, aimed at improving the environment and the people's wellbeing as well as sacrifices in all matters for the people. In addition, the Sufficient Economic Philosophy shall be promoted, studied and applied to create the empirical understanding and knowledge as such. This will contribute to ownself, society and country, resulting in continuing and maintaining the King's philosophy and Royal development projects.

1.3 Implement master plan under the National Strategy Level 3 of the Ministry of Defence, including plans for the protection of the sovereignty and national interests (2023 - 2027), the enhancement of national security (2023 - 2027), the 5 year Action Plan (2023 - 2027) and yearly Action plan report through the Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation System of the National Strategy and Country Reform: eMENSOCR, as well as implementing projects to achieve objectives of the national strategy, following the guidelines by members of the national strategy committee, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council and Office of the National Security Council.



1.4 Monitor and analyse the security situation in all dimension continuously both at international and regional level including the Greater Mekong Sub-region borders and internal problem of neighbouring countries that have an impact to our country and ASEAN’s security. Additionally, collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for guidelines on governmental level which is used for designating the policy that helps promote security cooperation and operation guideline for the Armed Forces in order to maintain the balance on international relations, military cooperation, as well as ASEAN centrality and national interests.

1.5 Strengthen security and military cooperation with allied countries and international organisations both bilateral and multilateral levels that are based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, mutual respect through mechanisms of various levels of committees of Defence Attachés’ affairs, joint training exercises and military educations. In addition, promotion on Thailand to be a key role in the region and its contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, the provision of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), tackle the pandemic of COVID – 19, as well as emerging infectious diseases, the provision of military medicine and development of defence industry are also important for the Royal Thai Armed Forces to achieve the international recognition.

1.6 Engage in cooperation activities with neighbouring countries and ASEAN member states within the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), as well as, the member countries of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), bilateral cooperation with ASEAN Member States at the policy level. Moreover, meetings within the framework of the General Border Committees between Thailand and the neighbouring countries shall also be emphasized



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The Ministry's initiated cooperation must be focused on, being a key role in moving forward the security cooperation in the region.

1.7 Enhance the potential of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the national defence system to be fully prepared by an integration with all sectors that includes reserve personnel affairs and synergy of force and resources plans for national defence. This is to achieve the equalisation of capabilities with other countries within South East Asia region and to become secured from military threats both in domestic and international, as well as, to be able to cease problems and obstacles quickly, based on the principle of utilising own combat forces for self-protection and cooperative missions, and adequate manpower in forces for further assigned missions.

1.8 Integrate and coordinate with the security sectors and neighbouring countries in both bilateral and multilateral levels on borders management, protection and resolve security problems in every dynamic such as drugs trafficking, weapon trafficking, illegal activities, natural resources deterioration and deforestation, transnational crime, terrorism, illegal immigration, human trafficking and humanitarian assistance mine action for the matters of safety along the borders.

1.9 Support the public sectors, private sectors and civil foundations to take part of military operations to form understandings of the roles and duties of the military among youths and students. This is to be conducted by inviting them to join various fruitful activities and beneficial to society in forms of volunteer activities, simultaneously with the enhancement of general knowledge and conscious affection for national pride, religion and Monarchy institution, through learning centers, museums and military attractions.



1.10 Manage and supervise the operations of the Ministry and the Royal Thai Armed Forces in accordance to the Royal Act 2562 (2019) on Private Data Protection. This is to reiterate private data protection officers to be attentive on incorporation private data, usage or reveal private data under their supervision to the public, inform knowledge for military personnel, families and people on restrictions, regulation and various punishments in accordance to the said Royal Act.

2. Reforming the Armed Forces and Promoting Good Governance

2.1 Reduce the number of personnel of all ranks continuously in accordance to the Personnel Management Reform Plan of the Ministry of Defence, which has target of reducing the total number of personnel as of September 2020 by 5 percent, and reducing the amount of senior experts, experts, operating officers, and officers by 50 percent by September 2027. This includes volunteer troops that will increasingly replace officials in combat units and combat support units, and for civil servants of the Ministry of Defence to enter into service in specialised roles.

2.2 Develop the mechanisms and personnel in terms of education and training of the Armed Forces of all levels that are relevant to the security, threats, and technologies of the 21st Century, with particular focus in policy making, unit structures, integration of educational courses, and the development of personnel regarding education and training and experts within the Armed Forces. This includes leadership training for commanders of all levels, and also for personnel to receive civilian trainings and educations in order to promote lifelong learning, which will improve the life quality of personnel and their families in the long term.



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2.3 Introduce reservists that are listed on the registry for active duty to training and work alongside the Armed Forces, even under normal circumstances. This is done in order to increase the work capability and to create familiarity between active duty troops, active duty divisions, and reservists. This includes the improvement to the organisation of reserve divisions, which re-organises the positions, ranks, branches of the reservists in accordance to the functionality of the reserve divisions, which also includes the development of a network for reservists to create tangible results for every branch of the Armed Forces.

2.4 Commanders and personnel of all levels must strictly adhere to moral principles, as they are the foundation of conduct, which follows the 2021 Ethics Order of the Ministry of Defence. This includes adherence to national institutions, honesty, responsibility to duty, courage to make good moral decisions, achieving work results, performing duties fairly, and maintaining a positive image for all public servants. Commanders must set a good example by promoting, supporting, propagating, and building a standard of moral principles for all their subordinate officers.

2.5 Enhance the welfare and quality of life for personal and their families by continuously increasing their morale throughout their career, caring for their rights, ensuring good working, living conditions and providing necessary facilities and other entitled benefits.

2.6 Promote and develop a prevention and suppression system for corruption and malpractice at the Ministry of Defence, so that its operations adhere to good governance, and is transparent and accountable in accordance with the laws and the framework of the Integrity & Transparency Assessment. The people may participate by voicing their opinions and requesting relevant agencies to launch lawful investigations complete with



witnesses and evidence, and free of outside interference. The Ministry will process all complaints of corruption and malpractice according to the procedure and timeframe laid out, organize activities that promote morality, decency and ethics, as well as instilling awareness on the importance of prevention and countering corruption. This is to be carried out in coordination and cooperation with all sectors, as well as assigning education courses on anti-corruption in compulsory military education curriculum of all levels.

2.7 Integrate cooperation with all sectors and intelligence agencies, domestically and internationally, which includes improving and modernising administrative tasks, data management and linking geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) systems, so that they can effectively and continuously support the Defence Command Centre. This will form the database that will improve upon the combat structure in the short, medium and long term.

2.8 Attach importance to maintaining state secrets and confidentiality by supervising and emphasising personnel to strictly adhere by the 2001 Order of Maintaining Confidentiality, the 2009 Prime Ministerial Order on Maintaining National Security, and other related decrees. All personnel must not release confidential documents or information to unauthorised persons or on social media, in order to prevent detriments that could harm the Ministry of Defence and national security.

2.9 Maintain strict security measures on all military installations, especially in armories, weapon depots, offices, and residential buildings, especially those who are serving in armories and depots must take particular care in the prevention of weapons, armaments, and ammunition from being sold or used without prior authorisation. If such action is detected, the personnel responsible on duty and his commanders will be punished accordingly.



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2.10 Improve the structure of the Armed Forces so that they are at the appropriate size to combat threats of all forms, dimensions and severity, flexible with high combat capacity, equip with modern armaments and technologies, and perform diverse missions. New armaments are to be commissioned as deem necessary and must be done in conjunction with the repair and maintenance of existing armaments, as well as taking advantage of the national defence industry, the purpose of which is to improve upon the national budget.

2.11 Improve the military doctrine, operation guideline and manual for trainings of all level including new recruits training, individual tactical training, unit training, combined post exercise training, field training and joint training. All training must be compatible to deal with the current security situation and threats that might arise in the future.

2.12 Attach importance to the transformation of the Ministry of Defence into digitality, in accordance with the governmental policy of digitising current state affairs, under the 2019 Act of Digital State Organisation and Services and the Plan for Economic and Social Digital Development. This also includes collaborating with related agencies in developing an Enterprise Data Architecture (EDA), which is used for collecting big data for the benefits of managing national security, national defence, problem solving on major national issues, national development, assist the people, and improve state services that match the needs of the public.

2.13 Expedite continued cyber operation capability development in the areas of personnel, equipment, knowledge base and the management system in order to effectively combat cyber threats that undermine our national security as well as support cyber security operations at the national level, and conduct integrated collaboration with all sectors both domestically and internationally, in accordance to the 2019 Digital Security Act.



2.14 Develop the capability of the Ministry's space affairs, covering satellite communications, satellite imagery, and space surveillance, so that it can respond to threats to national security, help in disaster relief, assisting the public, and adheres to the policies of the government.

2.15 Continue the process of developing and improving the usage of land under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence (2023 - 2037), ensuring that these lands are managed with efficiency, and are utilised to benefit the country and the public. This includes solving all issues related to land usage in a way that is modern and under the responsibility of related agencies, in accordance with all laws and regulations.

2.16 Promote energy saving both at the office and at homes by creating awareness and social value of energy saving of all kind for personnel and their families. This includes the provisions for alternative sources of energy, for example, solar power, wind power, and hydroelectric power, which can be harnessed and used by related agencies. This will help reduce energy usage and costs, in accordance with governmental policies.

2.17 Enhance the military research and development, military quality standards, and the national defence industry according to the integrated budget for research and development of military science and technology of the Ministry of Defence, and the integrated military quality standards of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, with an aim to research and develop high quality armaments that are accepted and trusted by the users, so that these armaments will lead to production for commissioning into service.

2.18 Develop good public relations that are modern in technique and appropriate to the targeted audience. This is done in order to create awareness and understanding for personnel, their families,



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and the general public, with particular focus on the younger generation, achievements of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces in supporting important missions of the government, as well as the commitment and determination of the Ministry of Defence and the government in accomplishing missions for the public and the country, and roles of the military other than defending the country. The public relations also emphasises personal to consider using online social media in an appropriate manner, with good judgement, with caution, and to always keep state secrets when using these platforms.

2.19 Promote and develop the judicial process in military courts and military legal systems by adhering to the rule of law, amend and update legislations on the basis of overall national security, public order, country development, and international standards. This is to provide knowledge and understanding for personnel to perform duties properly and appropriately.

2.20 Expedite the process of defence budget spending according to the 2023 expenditure plan with transparency, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness, strictly adhering to all applicable laws and regulations.

2.21 Develop the potential of veterans, their families, and non-active duty personnel so that they can live in our society with honour and dignity through the enhancement of welfare support and job security, which will boost morale of veterans, their families and non-active duty personnel, as well as personnel responsible for border protection and internal security.



3. Supporting the continued Government's Effort in Resolving the Country's Major Problems

3.1 Provide continued assistance in monitoring, preventing and controlling the pandemic of COVID-19, as well as emerging infectious diseases, and integrate cooperation with public sectors, private sectors, civil society sectors and/or other relevant agencies, so that the Armed Forces' potential can be employed to support the solving of the mentioned problems when required.

3.2 Maintain continued support for addressing the major problems confronting the country, people's hardship and improving quality of life, as well as simultaneously shorten social inequality such as security threats to major national institution, lack of reconciliation among society, insurgency in southern border provinces, national disaster, degradation of national resources, cyber threats, drugs trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism, transnational crime, illegal activities along land and sea borders, import and export illegal agriculture products and other illegal products, Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) and illicit fuel trade.

3.3 Integrate and coordinate with the Internal Security Operations Command, the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center and security agencies to obtain proper guidance to work together with agencies for protection and prevention of unlawful conduct, as well as to resolve the country's major problems together with strictly implementing the law enforcement by clearly assigning the responsibilities to relevant agencies. If any government officials are found involved in illicit activities, they will be punished for disciplinary action and crime without exemption.



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3.4 Promote and support efforts to move forward the economy, using the potential of units and state enterprises under the Ministry of Defence to develop the defence industry for commercial purposes, infrastructure and new economy zones such as the development of special economic zones along the borders and other special economic development zones to support the implementation of the National Strategy on increasing competitiveness. Utilise Defence Attaches' potential to promote, and facilitate public and private agencies to gain opportunities and introduce Thai defence industry armaments to the world. The Ministry of Defence will promote military units and installations as tourist attractions while ensuring that each attraction meets the prescribed standard. All enlisted personnel are to have their civilian working skills and entranced before the end of their military services in order to prepare them for civilian career.

3.5 Support the development of BCG Model with utilising capabilities of related units and state enterprises that are under supervision Ministry of Defence. This is to develop the economy of 3 dynamics including Bio Economy which emphasises on biological resources that create added value, with emphasis on the development of value added products that enhances the economy. Circular Economy emphasises on recycling products so that they can once again generate value. Green Economy must be done with social development and environment protection in order to create a stable and sustainable growth.

3.6 Integrate with public agencies and/or other related organizations in managing natural disaster-related risks, especially prevention and mitigation will be emphasised. Development on potentials and capabilities of personal, tools and armaments in accordance to



international standards shall also be emphasised in order to support missions of mitigations and disaster prevention with effectiveness, immediateness and uncomplication. This will be implemented in agencies and organisations continuously. In addition, promotion of cooperation with the allied countries and international organisations for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in both bilateral and multilateral will also be emphasized.

3.7 Provide knowledge of consequences of involving with drugs and military personal, families, military units and their communities. Additionally, Ministry of Defence will support the government and relevant organisations, as well as cooperate with neighboring and allied countries to monitor, prevent, tackle and intercept drugs trafficking along the borders and critical areas. Besides, support the rehabilitation and addiction recovery as regulated by the government also needs to be implemented.



