Policy of the Minister of Defence

Introduction

The Ministry of Defence is a security unit and follows the constitution by establishing its duties and authorization to uphold the institution of kingship, sovereignty, dignity and interests of the country, security of the state, as well as to support the government for the country development, humanitarian assistance and disaster relieve and resolve the country's problems. The Ministry of Defence also follows the First Royal Command of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, as well as to be committed to follow the rule of law and the Government Policy as the essence of the government administration, leading to country's security and safety, to strengthen unity and harmony in Thai society, cooperation on political stability and economic development for sustaining the social well-being of Thai people.

The policy statement of the Minister of Defence fiscal year B.E. 2569 (2026) is designed to provide a guidance for units of the Ministry of Defence, agencies in charge and state enterprises under supervision of the Ministry of Defence, in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560 (2017) and concerned legislations. Additionally, they need to be implemented efficiently and concretely, as well as, in accordance

with the National Strategy, the National Security Policy and Plan, including the National Economic and Social Development Plan, Government Policy and Policy Statement of Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul to the Cabinet Ministers which was stated on 29 September B.E. 2568 (2025). The statement breaks down into three batches 1) To promote country's security and safety 2) To develop administrative system of the Ministry of Defence and Royal Thai Armed Forces 3) To support the state administration as indicated:

1. To promote country's security and safety

1.1 Prioritise, protect and uphold the institution of kingship as the Head of State and the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces with the greatest honour in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand.This includes utmost effort to unify the institution as the center of people's hearts and minds eternally.

1.2 Support the implementation of the National Strategy to achieve targets and indicators in relation with value chain as stated in the National Strategy. In this regard, all projects conducted need to be cost-effective, effective and in accordance with the capability development of the Ministry of Defence.

1.3 Continuously monitor and analyse security situation in all dimensions in the world, ASEAN Mekong Sub-Region, border areas and domestic conflicts in neighboring countries. In addition, coordinate closely with concerned security agencies to address appropriate approaches for the Armed Forces and in adherence to protect sovereignty and national interests.



1.4 Maintain relations and enhance security and military cooperation with ASEAN Member States, allied countries and international organisations. These are conducted on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit to achieve the best outcome in enhancing the country's diplomacy and balancing international politics; and also effectively promoting national power in other aspects.

1.5 Resolve tensions along the border of Thailand - Cambodia by priorly protecting sovereignty and national interests, as well as safety of the people. There are urgent cases that need to be proceeded including deploying military forces at the operation areas, clearing improvised explosive devices, suppressing transnational crimes and cyber crimes.

1.6 Develop border areas to accommodate the force mobilization and deployment, protect the borders and the country as well as other related military operations. In addition, relevant government agencies will expedite implementation and coordinate with ministries and agencies to facilitate the access in the border areas.

1.7 Enhance the defence capabilities and readiness on tackling threats with modernized technology on the battle fields. The defence capabilities that need to be expeditiously enhanced are the use of drones and anti-drone measures firing supports for land, sea and air, special operations across all dynamics, combined arms operations and joint operations on the battle fields.

1.8 Develop reserve personal affairs and people's force to support national defence, security, development, disaster relieve and assisting people during the peace time. This includes developing, revising

and amending resolution and related orders to modernize reserve personnel and improvement of the reservist training system to nurture effective reservist.

1.9 Develop efficient defence mobilisation system and prepare readiness for the complete range of potential threats. This includes the conduct of public relations and public awareness on civilian government agencies, state enterprises, private sectors and people to enhance public understanding of military's responsibilities on defence mobilisation during peace time and during national defence operations.

1.10 Promote support for veterans and the War Veterans Organisation of Thailand, as well as, improve related rules and regulations to provide swift, sustaining and effective assistance to veterans and their families within the national budget.

2. To develop administrative system of the Ministry of Defence and Royal Thai Armed Forces

2.1 Reduce the number of personnel in accordance with the Personnel Management Reform plan of the Ministry of Defence, which has set the target of reducing the total number of personnel (Commissioned officers, Non-commisioned officers and volunteers) by 5 percent from the actual recruitment on September B.E. 2563 (2020) within fiscal year B.E. 2570 (2027). This aims to reduce the number of senior experts, experts, operating officers by 50 percent within fiscal year B.E. 2571 (2028), without affecting capabilities of Armed Forces in protecting the country. This also includes the reduction of the number personnel in command units, combat supporting units and non-combatant units as priority.



2.2 Maintain a voluntary military service system in order to develop into a complete voluntary system in the future without affecting capabilities of the Armed Forces in protecting the country. This aims to create inspiration to recruit, promote dignity and pride of active duty personnel, as well as provide safety environment during the training.

2.3 Maximise the reserve personnel for performing temporary duty (volunteers) in substitution of active duty personnel in units of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Navy and Royal Thai Air Forces to support duties of aging active duty personnel and rotate younger volunteers into active duties in continuation.

2.4 Prioritise on enhancing the capability and well-being of low-ranking personnel and active duty personnel, as well as their families to live securely and efficiently after retirement.

2.5 Expedite Civilian Defence Employee and enrollment plan structure of units for civilian defence employee in substitution of military personnel in appropriation. This aims to provide explicit guideline to become an employee for civilian defence employees and also create comprehensive understanding for them and people regarding the administrative system of the Ministry of Defence.

2.6 Review appropriate organisational structure plan and develop the Armed Forces to be ready, resilient and modern. Furthermore, target, timeframe, activities, basic budget and the Armed Forces development budget need to be explicitly carried out in order to modernise and professionalise the Armed Forces successfully.

2.7 Develop, enhance and integrate digital technology such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data Analytics. These are applied to achieve Digital Transformation of the Ministry of Defence.

2.8 Develop and enhance cyber capabilities on personnel, equipment and administration, as well as, enhance cooperation with government agencies, private and public sectors and allied countries, to efficiently and effectively cope with cyber threats. Furthermore, it needs to be carried out in accordance with law, procedures and standard of cyber security.

2.9 Develop space capability and enhance cooperation and integration of government agencies and private sectors to support the end state operations of the Ministry of Defence. These are applied to handle security threats, develop and protect national interests and provide assistance to the people.

2.10 Develop defence industry into commercial and enhance cooperation among related government agencies and encourage private sectors involvement in order to address defence industry as the driving of the country's economy. This is also to reduce the reliance of foreign import and enhance equipment preparation and readiness effectively.

2.11 Manage land under the military unit care to utilise and maximise benefit in accordance with the Armed Forces mission. Lands which have no plan to use or are no longer in use for military purpose, are to be utilised to promote national development and well-being of the people upon request.



2.12 Budget expenditure management must be swift and accurate to achieve maximum benefit, good governance, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, cost effectiveness, as well as in strict compliance to the related laws, regulations, procedures and other relevant measures.

2.13 Enhance and develop military justice system in accordance with rule of law and amend law under supervision of the Ministry of Defence in accordance with international standard. Additionally, closely monitor the revised law for the benefit of military operations and create understanding for all personnel, military cadets, and active duty personnel in order to legitimately perform duty.

2.14 Prioritise process of receiving complaints from all personnel and the public for the purpose of promptly problem solving and gathering feedback. The information received can be utilised and improved the administrative capability of the Ministry of Defence.

3. To support the state administration

3.1 Support the Internal Security Operations Command, (ISOC) Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre (Thai-MECC) and related security agencies in addressing critical national problems and alleviating hardships of the people, such as resolving unrest situation in southern border provinces, maritime security and preserving national resources and environment.

3.2 Integrate with other government agencies or related security agencies to enhance basic living standard and quality of life of the people at target areas, to sustain their normal and secured living under the environment conducive to national defence and security.

3.3 Integrate with other government authorities and related agencies to prevent and suppress security threat along the borders and neighboring countries including drugs trafficking, technology crime, human trafficking and support the government rehabilitation of individuals with substance addiction, and facilitating their integration into society in accordance with related laws.

3.4 Arrange training and develop capabilities of personnel to be able to apply civilian disaster relieve equipment provided to each area. In addition, arrange the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with responsible government authorities to promptly facilitate and assist affected people when disaster occurs.



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