

PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI



Parliamentary Oversight of Defense & Security Budgets

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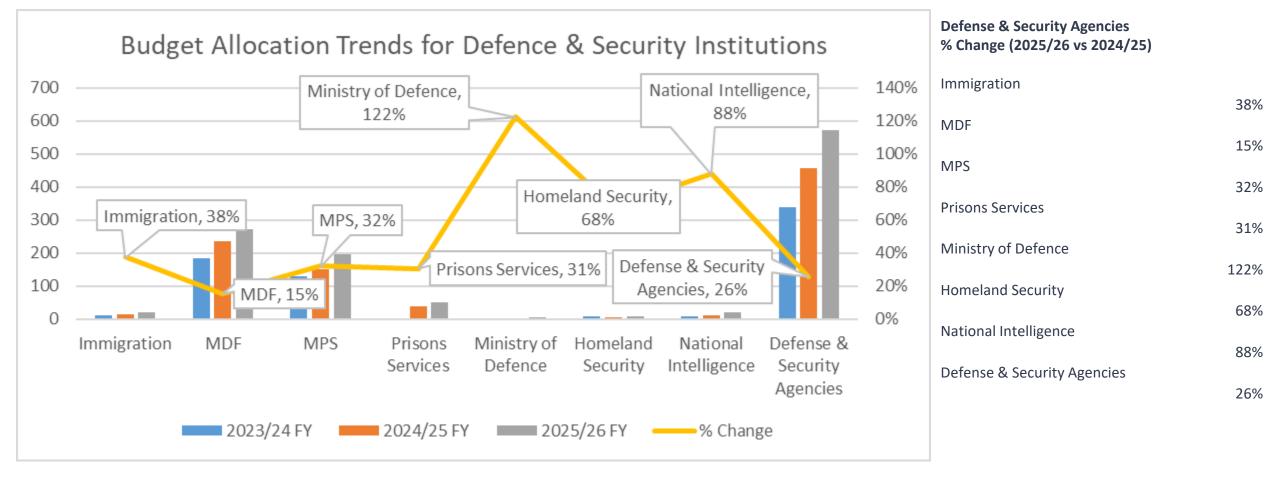
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Legal Backing of the Budget and Finance Committee

- The functions of the Budget Committee are stated in Standing Order 158 of the National Assembly
 - The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), of 2022, Sections 21-24, mandates the Budget Committee of the National Assembly to inquire into any Government financial matter.

Defense & Security Budget Trend in Malawi



Overall the Defense and Security Sector received an increase of 26% in 2025/26 FY however it decreased in real terms

In 000,000' millions

Defence and Security Agency	2024-25 FY	2025-26 FY	Real Value 2025-26 FY	% Change
Ministry of Defense	2,595.69	5,758.82	4,644.21	122%
Malawi Defence Force	235,829.10	271,552.22	218,993.73	15%
National Intelligence Services	10,311.90	19,384.90	15,632.98	88%
Ministry of Homeland Security	5,108.74	8,571.40	6,912.42	68%
Malawi Police Services	149,080.01	196,921.24	158,807.45	32%
Department of Immigration	13,538.62	18,735.65	15,109.40	38%
Malawi Prison Service	39,238.31	51,241.57	41,323.85	31%
Overall	455,702.37	572,165.80	461,424.03	26%

Programme Based budget

- MDF has the mandate to conduct military operations in defence of the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and constitutional order of the Republic of Malawi, as well as its national interests.
- Military Service and Operations Support programmes help combat CT

Program/Sub-program	2024/25	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Approved	Revised	Estimate	Projection	Projection
020-Management and Support Services	115,756.07	152,761.77	163,997.93	180,397.73	194,829.54
1-Information and Communication	10,543.15	10,543.15	10,819.32	11,901.26	12,853.36
Technology					
2-Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	1,527.46	1,527.46	4,519.21	4,971.13	5,368.82
7-Administration	98,100.29	137,106.00	246.00	270.60	292.25
8-Financial Management and Audit Services	260.00	260.00	302.52	332.77	359.39
9-Human Resource Management	5,325.17	3,325.17	148,110.88	162,921.97	175,955.72
114-Defence Security	87,322.99	82,431.33	104,323.21	114,755.53	123,935.97
1-Military Airforce	6,103.37	5,103.37	6,206.37	6,827.01	7,373.17
2-Military Engineering	135.00	135.00	166.00	182.60	197.21
3-Military Maritime	7,297.65	5,405.98	8,037.30	8,841.02	9,548.31
4-Combat Support	449.31	449.31	1,025.96	1,128.56	1,218.84
5-Infantry	3,038.63	3,038.63	8,492.86	9,342.15	10,089.52
6-Military Training	2,862.69	2,862.69	3,287.69	3,616.46	3,905.78
7-Military Logistics	67,436.34	65,436.34	77,107.02	84,817.73	91,603.14
115-Military Services and Operations	636.00	636.00	3,231.08	3,554.19	3,838.52
Support					
1-Military Intelligence	108.00	108.00	476.42	524.07	565.99
2-Military Medical Services	480.00	480.00	2,697.06	2,966.76	3,204.10
3-Military Legal Services	48.00	48.00	57.60	63.36	68.43
Grand Total	203,715.06	235,829.10	271,552.22	298,707.44	322,604.04

Programme Based budget

• The National Intelligence Service has the mandate to safeguard the Republic of Malawi and institutions therein against internal and external threats through the provision of timely, insightful, objective and actionable intelligence. This include CT.

Program/Sub-program	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26
	Approved	Revised	Estimate	Projection	Projection
020-Management and Support Services	2,789.3	3,289.3	10,204.8	10,998.1	11,877.9
7-Administration	2,789.3	3,289.3	10,204.8	10,998.1	11,877.9
163-State and National Security	6,252.7	7,022.6	9,180.1	9,893.7	10,685.2
1-Intelligence Services	4,829.7	5,599.6	5,651.7	6,091.0	6,578.3
2-Specialised Operations	331.1	331.1	1,520.3	1,638.4	1,769.5
3-Cyber Security	345.9	345.9	1,014.8	1,093.7	1,181.2
4-Liason Services	746.0	746.0	993.3	1,070.5	1,156.1
Grand Total	9,042.0	10,311.9	19,384.9	20,891.8	22,563.1

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Techniques in Examining the National Defense & Security Budget

Technical Budget Scrutiny

- Engaging the Parliamentary Budget Office
- Round Table Discussions (Closed door engagements and Cluster meetings)
- Trend Analysis across budget cycles
- Programme Based Budgetting
- Lobbying with different committees to push one agenda

Procurement Oversight & Efficiency

- Ensuring Efficient Security Procurement
 - o Independent verification for major contracts
 - Periodic contract performance reviews
- Transparency in Defense Procurement
 - Competitive bidding for non-sensitive purchases
 - Clear distinction between classified and nonclassified procurements
- Audit & Accountability
 - Strengthening National Audit Office's role in defense audits
 - Establishing specialized audit teams for security budgets

Parliamentary Oversight of Defense and Security Budgets in Malawi

Challenges in Oversight

- Balancing national security concerns with fiscal discipline
- Executive bureaucracy (SPC denying Parliamentary Committees to conduct oversight of MDAs due to self interest)
- Political Interference

Handling Classified and Sensitive Information

- Access to secret budget data
 Conducting an independent analysis
- Parliamentary Sub-committees with security clearance
 - Conducting oversight
- Executive & Legislative relations presenting a non-classified summary of expenditures

International Engagements & Lessons from Others

- Insights from African Center Roundtables
 - Contributing to shaping national security strategy.
- Regional Contribution on CT/CVE
 Budgets
 - Exchange best practice on budget oversight
 - Exploring joint procurement initiatives with neighboring countries

THANK YOU