

**S.I. 103 of 2025**

DEFENCE ACT

*(Cap. 58)*

**Defence (Board of Inquiry on Importation of Firearms) Regulations, 2025**

**Arrangement of Regulations**

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**S.I. 103 of 2025**

## DEFENCE ACT

*(Cap. 58)***Defence (Board of Inquiry on Importation of Firearms) Regulations, 2025**

WHEREAS, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force thinks fit and expedient that he should be informed of the matters connected with the importation of firearms and ammunition during the period from the year 2000 to date including the importation from Bulgaria during the years 2003 to 2006;

WHEREAS, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force considers that it is expedient to constitute a Board of Inquiry to investigate and submit a report on the issue of importation of firearms and ammunition during the period from the year 2000 to date.

NOW, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 read with section 41 of the Defence Act (Cap. 58), the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force, hereby makes the following Regulations—

**Citation**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Defence (Board of Inquiry on Importation of Firearms) Regulations, 2025.

**Constitution of the Board of Inquiry**

2. The Board of Inquiry is constituted with the following Members—

- |                                     |   |             |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| (1) Hon'ble Justice Duncan Gaswanga | — | Chairperson |
| (2) Mrs. Nissa Thompson             | — | Member      |
| (3) Mr. Justin Norbert Dogley       | — | Member      |
| (4) Mr. Edward Annacoura            | — | Member      |

**Matters to be investigated**

3. The following shall be the matters to be investigated into by the Board of Inquiry—

- (a) the importation of all firearms and ammunition in so-called 'off-books' armouries during the period from the year 2000 to date including more specifically the importations from Bulgaria during the years 2003 to 2006 and who has authorised those importations and who paid for the importation of the firearms and ammunition;

- (a) the storage of firearms and ammunition in so-called 'off-books' armouries during the period from the year 2000 to date, including the authorisation of the use of such locations and who had knowledge of them and whether there are any such off books armouries still in existence; and if so, at which location;
- (b) to investigate the use of foreign mercenaries or foreign ex-military personnel in connection with 'Operation Black Iron' more specifically during the period from October, 2021 to December, 2021. The investigation shall include their recruitment, access, possession and use of firearms and ammunition whilst on Seychelles soil and who had oversight of and authorised their activities; and
- (c) to investigate the use of arrest, search and seizure powers by foreign private contractors in connection with 'Operation Black Iron'; and
- (d) any other matter the Board of Inquiry considers necessary to investigate in connection with or arising from one or more of the above for the purpose of providing true and accurate information to the Commander-in-Chief.

#### **Proceedings of the Board of Inquiry**

4. All proceedings of the Board of Inquiry shall be held *in camera*.

#### **Application of the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Cap.39)**

5. The provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Cap.39) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be applicable to the Board of Inquiry constituted under these regulations for the conduct of inquiry on the matters enumerated in regulation 3.

#### **Report**

6. The Board of Inquiry shall submit its final written report of inquiry, including the finding of facts, its conclusion on the matters specified in regulation 3 and any recommendations it considers appropriate in connection with the inquiry, to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Force within a period of six months from the date of its constitution and in any case latest by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

**Made this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2025**

**DR. PATRICK HERMINIE**  
**PRESIDENT / COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE**

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