
TAIWAN PRESIDENT SAYS HE 'WON'T GIVE UP' ON DEFENCE SPENDING AFTER PARLIAMENT CUTS

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Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Tuesday he would "not give up" on increasing defence spending, after the island's opposition-majority [] last month passed just two-thirds of a \$40 billion supplementary budget.

Taiwan's government [] prioritising drones and other asymmetric systems for its military modernisation programme but parliament only signed off on the purchase of U.S. weapons. It vetoed funds for domestically made drones [] missiles which Lai wants to better deter China which views the democratically governed island as its own territory.

"Regarding the major cuts [] the special national defence budget, we will not give up," he said [] a military base in New Taipei.

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