

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is facing a growing security crisis in its eastern region, prompting President Félix Tshisekedi to convene an emergency meeting of the Expanded Higher Defense Council on Saturday June 29, 2024.

The meeting, held at the Cité de l'Union Africaine in Kinshasa, focused on the deteriorating security situation in North Kivu province, particularly the recent capture of several towns by the M23 rebel group.

President Tshisekedi was joined by Prime Minister Sama Lukonde, key government officials, senior commanders of the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC), and representatives of both civilian and military intelligence services.

This critical meeting comes amidst alarming developments. Just 24 hours prior, the M23 rebels seized the rural commune of Kayina, following the capture of Kanyabayonga in Lubero territory. Concordant sources report that over 5,000 M23 fighters are now positioned near Kirumba, their next target.

The swift rebel advance has sparked a mass exodus, with residents fleeing their homes in fear. Some have sought refuge in Lubero-center, while others have headed towards Butembo.