Clashes between M23 rebels and Wazalendo fighters from the CMC/FDP resumed early Monday in the Tongo and Kabizo areas of the Bwito chiefdom, Rutshuru territory, amid intensifying violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Fighting has been ongoing since the weekend in several localities, including Lubwe Sud, Businene, Kabizo, and Mutanga. While local reports had suggested that the Wazalendo forces had pushed back the M23 rebels, the situation shifted dramatically Monday morning when the rebels regained control of Kabizo, a strategic town they had abandoned nearly six months ago. The recapture was confirmed by multiple local sources.

The renewed clashes have triggered fresh population displacement. Some residents fled the violence, while others remained in their homes, according to witnesses.

Casualties have been reported on both sides, though the exact number of deaths remains unconfirmed.

Addionally, Rutshuru territory continues to be divided between rival forces. The M23 controls key positions including Nroroba in the Mutanda grouping and about 20% of the Tongo group, notably the Kanaba-Mulimbi axis. The Wazalendo, aligned with the Congolese army, maintain control over the Bambo grouping.

The Kanaba-Mulimbi axis is considered a vital corridor for transporting reinforcements and equipment between Tongo and Kitshanga in the Bishusha region, giving the M23 a logistical advantage.

Additional clashes were reported in the Buabo area of Masisi territory, though details about the scale of violence and casualties remain unclear.