The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) finally has a new government, ending months of negotiations following President Felix Tshisekedi’s re-election in December 2023.

Prime Minister Judith Suminwa, appointed in April, will lead the cabinet. Her first task will be securing approval from the National Assembly for her program and the new ministerial team of 54 members.

The new government reflects a focus on security concerns. Following a recent coup attempt and ongoing conflicts with armed groups, President Tshisekedi replaced key figures in the Defense and Interior Ministries.

Former warlord Jean-Pierre Bemba steps down as Defense Minister, taking on a Deputy Prime Minister role focused on transportation.

Other notable changes include Constant Mutamba, a young opposition figure, taking over the Justice portfolio. Patrick Muyaya, the Minister for Communication and Government Spokesman, remains in his position.

President Tshisekedi’s office has emphasized continuity, with the new government tasked with building upon his first term achievements. However, ambitious goals for the second term have also been outlined.

These include creating 6.4 million jobs, diversifying the Congolese economy, and improving living standards for citizens through increased purchasing power and access to basic services. Additionally, streamlining the civil service is another key objective.

The path forward for the new government is fraught with challenges. Security concerns persist in eastern DRC, and achieving the government’s ambitious economic and social goals will require substantial resources and effective implementation. Analysts warn that the true test will be translating these plans into concrete improvements in the lives of the Congolese people.