Rwanda’s National Heroes, Medals, and Orders of Honor Authority (CHENO) announced that more than 30 individuals are currently undergoing research to determine their eligibility as National Heroes.

Nicolas Rwaka, Director of Research at the Chancellery for Heroes, National Orders and Decorations said the review process includes living Rwandans, among them President Paul Kagame. Each candidate is being assessed for their extraordinary contributions to the nation.

“No one is declared a National Hero without thorough research,” Rwaka said. “The proposal for His Excellency the President to become a Hero came from certain individuals, and there were also letters from youth requesting it. Each submission must detail the person’s actions, when and where they occurred, and the impact they had. The rest is verified through our research.”

Rwaka noted that the process for President Kagame is being carefully considered, as the President himself is responsible for formally confirming National Heroes, yet he is also a candidate. “Everything is possible,” he said.

Other individuals are also being studied and may be granted National Hero status. Those who do not meet that designation could still receive Medals and Orders of Honor for their significant contributions. CHENO said Rwanda currently has seven types of Orders of Honor: Uruti, Umurinzi, Agaciro, Igihango, Indashyikirwa, Indangamirwa, and Indengabaganizi.

Rwanda observes its annual Heroes’ Day on Feb. 1, and this year will mark the 32nd edition. To celebrate, a month-long series of events will begin Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, highlighting the accomplishments of Rwandan heroes.

Activities will include radio, television, and social media broadcasts, as well as sports competitions such as handball and football under the ‘Ubutwari Tournament.’ The month of events will culminate in a concert on Jan. 31 honoring National Heroes.

CHENO said the initiative aims to recognize Rwandans whose exceptional deeds have strengthened national unity, contributed to development, and served as examples of exemplary citizenship.