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Rotary Club in Shs 3.6b drive to build Dr Alier Skills Centre

BY JAMES OWICH

OMORO. The Rotary Club of Kampala have launched a drive to raise \$1 million (Shs3.6 billion) towards the construction of Dr Martin Alier Youth Skilling Centre in Omoro District, to equip youth in the former war-ravaged sub-region with vocational skills.



Dr Martin Alier

Already, Shs22 million has been realised in the last two years for the construction of the skilling centre in Abole, Koro Sub-County, in remembrance of the former honoured politician, dentist and diplomat.

The funds were raised through a golf tournament and the Gulu City Marathon in 2025.

Mr Francis Gimara, the president of Gulu City Marathon, who donated Shs10 million towards the project, said the marathon will annually donate 10 percent of the proceeds to a good cause.

"Earlier on, we donated 10 percent of the Gulu City Marathon to Dero Kwan (Education basket) proceeds to support the initiative geared towards bright but disadvantaged children in the Acholi sub-region," he said.

Gimara said the construction of the skills centre is a good cause because it will equip young people with skills, hence making them employable and self-sustaining.

"Each year, we will donate a portion of the proceeds to a project making a real contri-

bution to society. We will also announce the beneficiary of the proceeds of the 2026 edition of the Gulu City Marathon," he added.

Ms Jackie Mukasa, the president Rotary Club of Kampala, said they are planning to organise another golf tournament later this year to raise more funds for the construction of the centre.

"Two years ago, we held a golf tournament, and we realised Shs11 million. We are planning to organise another tournament this year towards this cause. We will have private companies to do the drive," Ms Mukasa said.

She revealed that plans were also underway to apply for a global grant from Rotary International to support the project.

According to the Rotary Club, the construction of the skilling centre was born after a consultation with the community on their needs and how best to remember Dr Alier, who died in 2024.

Dr Alier is the brother of the late Daudi Ocheng, one of the most respected Ugandan politicians.

Shs10m

The money Mr Francis Gimara, the President of Gulu City Marathon, donated million towards the project.