

# Baroda power Fr Grimes event with clean energy



**Cheque Boost.** Chandan Singh (C) presents a dummy cheque to UCF president Andrew Bakiza (L) as Executive Director Deepak Kumar looks on during the sponsorship handover at bank's headoffices in Kampala. PHOTO/ABDUL-NASSER SSEMUGABI

**Bright Moves.** The 35th edition of the Fr Grimes Chess Championship has gone beyond checkmates and trophies, with Bank of Baroda introducing a clean energy reward to power schools that excel both on and off the board.

BY ABDUL-N SSEMUGABI

## BRIEFLY

### New Kids On The Block

1. Patricia Kawuma (Gombe High)
2. Juliette Asaba (Sister Miriam Duggan)
3. Kur Akut Deng (St. Cyprian Kyabakadde)
4. Wabwire Ronald (Sister Miriam Duggan Primary School)

## BARODA OFFER

- Two solar panels and inverters
- Shs5.6m

**W**hen new stars like Gombe High School's Patricia Kawuma and St. Cyprian Kyabakadde's Kur Akut Deng shake the board and upset renowned champions Father Grimes Chess Championship, they may win themselves medals and trophies, as is the norm in most tournaments. But schools with the highest overall points will this time win solar panels to boost their shift towards clean energy.

"Players usually get trophies and all accolades.

"But this time we want to reward the schools as well in a unique way. We are offering solar installation to the overall best

schools," said Chandan Singh, the managing director Bank of Baroda, while handing two solar panels to the Uganda Chess Federation president, Andrew Bakiza, in Kampala yesterday.

"Chess is one of the sports we usually support. Education, sports and environment are the lifeline of any economy. So, we are proud to associate with the chess federation in promoting the culture of clean energy consumption in our schools, which is the future."

### Legacy lives on

Baroda also bankrolled the event with Shs5.6m to ease the organization of the tournament. "This is a win-win offer for the athletes and the schools. And we thank Baroda for this generous offer," Bakiza told the press.

"We usually have the medals and the usual prizes. But thanks to this partnership, we are giving our schools renewable energy to subsidise their operations."

As the name suggests, the tour-

namment honours the renowned Fr Damian Grimes, who popularised chess in Ugandan schools during his service that spanned decades. Such is the British prelate's bond with Uganda that when he died September 2024, aged 93 in Southport, England, his body was interred in Namasagali College in Kamuli District, Uganda.

St Mary's College hosted the 2023 edition in Kisubi; St Mark's College hosted the 2024 edition in Namagoma; while Our Lady of Africa S.S. Namilyango hosted the 2025 showpiece.

The 35th edition of the annual tournament, which attracted nearly 100 schools in primary and secondary categories from May 2 to today May 6, was hosted by Ntare School, the first to happen in Mbarara, in the west.

But Bakiza hinted at plans to rotate the tournament according to regions as part of their mandate to spread the sport across the country as required by the National Sports Act 2023.