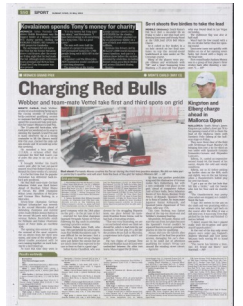


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## Kovalainen spends Tony's money for charity

**MONACO:** Lotus Formula One driver Heikki Kovalainen was the biggest bidder at a Monaco Grand Prix charity auction, shelling out €300,000 (US\$381,100) towards an AIDS project in Cambodia.

The auctioneer did not name the Finn but the former McLaren driver told *Reuters* after the event on Friday night that he had made the bid, although multi-millionaire team principal and AirAsia boss Datuk Seri Tony Fernandes was also present.

"It is my money but Tony pays my salary," said Kovalainen. "I have been looking to do something for a long time. This is a good cause."

The sum will cover half the budget of a project to provide 320 permanent homes for 1,760 people living with AIDS-HIV in the country.

Organisers said the Elton John AIDS foundation would contribute a matching donation.

The seven lots at the Amber

Lounge auction raised a total of €520,000 for the charity, including €50,000 splashed out by an anonymous bidder on a pair of black and white diamond cufflinks.

Formula One drivers, led by McLaren's 2008 world champion Lewis Hamilton, took part in a fashion show before the auction, attended by celebrities including former tennis great Boris Becker and actress Elizabeth Hurley.

— Reuters