



**ACTION ON POVERTY**  
*Building livelihoods, transforming lives*

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## **Master Soapstone Carver from Kenya introduces his life-saving work in Pershore on behalf of APT – Action on Poverty**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2013 was a lucky day for Master Carver Gerard Motondi, pictured below, who demonstrated his carving technique on behalf of APT Action on Poverty a charity based in Cropthorne.

Gerard Motondi from Kenya, visited the UK for the first time and explained how he is training miners to improve livelihoods of soapstone workers in Kenya in partnership with APT. The event was well attended despite it being Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. People were able to have a go at carving the Kisii stone, similar to soapstone, and see some of Gerard's sculptures.

Despite being highly skilled stone carvers many of whom are linked to the tourist industry, are exploited with low pay, hazardous working conditions and no job security. Wages are too low to support basic needs such as food and medicine and schooling for their children is unaffordable.

Health and safety training funded by people in Worcestershire is changing lives. Since Gerard has been training the stone workers in Tabaka, Kenya, there have been no fatal accidents in the last 3 years in the district, whereas before there were at least 3 or 4 deaths.

**Through APT, a £10 donation can provide life-saving health and safety training for one stone carver, literally saving a life!**

Master Stone Carver, Gerard, now a world commissioned sculptor said, 'I wanted to get involved with the project because I saw the agony of my people while growing up in Kisii. I saw how my people could not earn enough to feed their families, I wanted to help with the improved techniques I have learned.'

Mahouts also made a short presentation and featured in the photograph is Natasha, daughter of the founder.

**Registered Charity:** No. 290836  
**Registered in England & Wales:** Company No. 1872538

Every donation to APT saves lives and provides job security for Soapstone carvers in Kenya.  
Text your donation to: JKTS33 to 70070 or visit <http://www.apnterprise.org.uk/>

For further information about APT visit the website <http://www.apnterprise.org.uk/>



Gerard Motondi with young visitors Natasha and Joe watching stone carving at Pershore Community Centre.

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