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# SEWU News

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*Newsletter of the Self Employed Women's Union (SEWU)*

## **EDITORIAL: New members coming in from informal settlements**

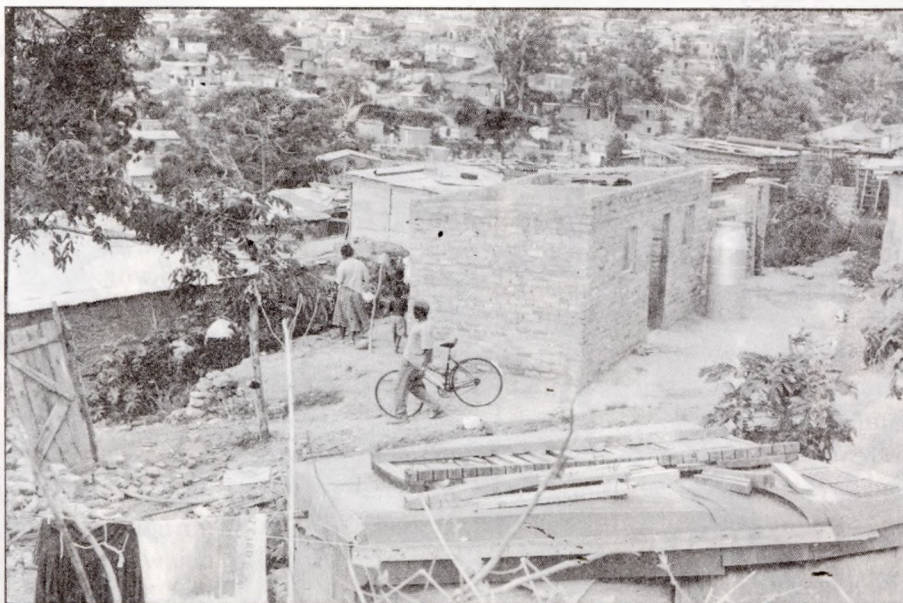
SEWU aims to organise women who are marginalised in our society and our economy. Some of the most marginalised women are those living in informal settlements, in peri-urban areas and in hostels (especially those living in men's hostels). Many women from these types of areas have now heard about SEWU, and have started to join. We now have branches at the following informal settlements: Etafuleni outside Inanda, Ezimangweni, Mzomusha, Bhambayi and Umlazi CC (in addition to Besters, an older branch). We have two very active branches in the peri-urban area of Engonyameni, where people have resettled after they had to move out due to violence some years ago. We also have members in the following hostels: Umlazi T Section, Kranskloof Hostel at KwaDabeka, and Dalton Hostel in central Durban (apart from Thokoza Hostel where many of our Durban street vendor members live).

Our members in these areas are doing all sorts of work which is not usually properly recognised in the economy, like selling offal and other food, making things at home (even without electricity or water) and selling to their neighbours. We hope that SEWU will succeed in changing the position of these women so that their contribution to the country's economy is properly recognised, and they become empowered to earn more income from the work which they do.

## **UMBONO KA-SEWU: Amalungu amasha angenayo avela emikhukhwini**

Inhloso kaSEWU ukugquzela abesifazane abashywe indiva emphakathini nasemnothweni wakithi. Abanye besifazane abanganakiwe ngokweqile yilabo abahlala emikhukhwini, emaphethelweni amadolobha nasemahostela (ikakhulu labo abahlala emahostela amadoda). Abanengi abavela ezindaweni ezifana nalezi sebezwe ngoSEWU, futhi sebeqalile ukujoyina. Manje sesinamagatsha kulemikhukhu elandelayo: Etafuleni emaphethelweni eNanda, Ezimangweni, Mzomusha, Bhambayi naseMlazi CC (amagatsha ezelela kuBesters, oyigatsha elidala). Sinamagatsha amabili anamandla kakhulu emaphethelweni aseNgonyameni, lapho abantu sebebuyele khona emuva kokuxoshwa wudlame eminyakeni eyedlule. Ngokunjalo, sinamalungu kulamahostela alandelayo: Umlazi T Section, Kranskloof Hostel KwaDabeka, naseDalton Hostel enkabeni yeTheku (ngaphandle kweThokoza Hostel lapho kuhlala khona abadayisi basemigwaqweni eThekwini).

Amalungu ethu kulezizindawo enza zonke izinhlobo zemisebenzi evamise ukungahlonishwa kahle kwezomnotho, efana nokudayisa inyama yangaphakathi nokunye ukudla, nokwakha izinto ezithile ekhaya (kuba kungekho gesi namanzi) nokudayisela omakhelwane. Sethemba ukuthi uSEWU uzophumelela ekuguquleni isimo salababantu besifazane ukuze iqhaza labo kwezomnotho wezwe lihlonishwe ngokufanele, futhi banikwe umfutho wokuzuza umthanyana ngomsebenzi abawenzayo.





## NEGOTIATIONS WITH DURBAN MUNICIPALITY

Negotiations between SEWU and the Informal Business Unit (IBU), which is the Durban Municipality's wing that deals with street vendors, began in September 1994 after the launch of SEWU because our members, especially the street vendors were complaining about the conditions under which they worked.

As part of the negotiating team, are the organizers and chairpersons of the following branches: Beachfront; Block AK; Warwick Avenue; Russell Street and West Street (it is disheartening though to mention that Block AK and West Street branches have since ceased to exist). The negotiations have been going on since then and are still continuing now in 1996.

These negotiations were triggered off by the Municipality's decision to evict SEWU members who earn their living by selling muti in Russell Street. SEWU negotiated successfully and all the muti sellers returned to their places of business.

There was great jubilation on the part of our members and the news of their victory was covered in our local newspapers. This was only the beginning of the struggle because when the Durban Municipality tried to repeat their infamous act of eviction in 1996, SEWU resisted victoriously and, as a result, preparation are afoot to build a market place in Lorne Street..

We have also won other struggles with for our members, for instance, we have successfully pressurised the Municipality to upgrade the facilities on the Beachfront. And after studying the city by-laws, we have also managed to persuade them to amend some of the by-laws which have always been a pain in the neck to our members.

In 1996, the City Council formed an Informal Trade Task Group, consisting of councillors, formal trade and informal

## IZINGXOXO NOMASIPALA WETHEKU

Izingxoxo phakathi kukaSEWU nabe-Informal Business Unit (IBU), okuwuphiko lukaMasipala weTheku oluqondene nabadayisi basemigwaqweni, zaqala ngoSeptember 1994 emuva kokugcotshwa kukaSEWU. Amalungu ethu, ikakhulukazi abadayisi basemigwaqweni, ayekhalaza ngezimo ayesebenza ngaphansi kwazo.

Abayingxanye yethimba lezingxoxo abagqugquzeli nosihlalo balamagatsha alandelayo: Beachfront; Warwick Avenue; Russell Street noWest Street (kuyadabukisa nokho, ukusho ukuthi amagatsha akuBlock AK noWest Street awasasebenzi). Izingxoxo zisaqhubeka namanje ngo-1996.

Lezingxoxo zaqala ngesikhathi uMasipala ethatha isinqumo sokuxosha amalungu kaSEWU aziphilisa ngokudayisa imithi kuRussell Street. Kwabe sekulandela izingxoxo ezaba yimpumelelo enkulu ngoba abadayisi babuyela ezindaweni zabo zokusebenza.

Amalungu kaSEWU afikelwa yinjabulo enkulu, kwathi loludaba lokuhlabana kwabo lwagcwala kumaphephandaba edolobha. Kwakuseyisiqalo somzabalazo oqhubekayo lesi ngoba kwathi kungakapholi maseko uMasipala wazama ukusiphinda lesisenzo esibi kangaka ngo-1996. Wahlangabezana nembibizane embi, waphinda wanqoba uSEWU. Kuyimanjena-nje, amalungiselelo okwakha imakethe kuLorne Street aseseqophelweni eliphezulu.

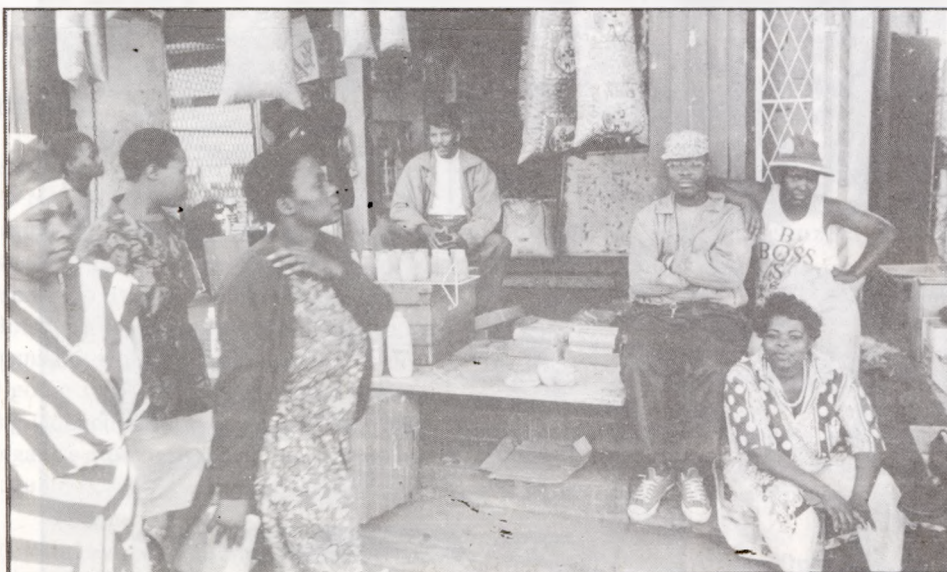
Sibuye saphinda samginga uMasipala ngokumcindezela ukuba athuthukise izidingo zabadayisi eBeachfront. Ngokunjalo, sihlale phansi sacwaninga imithetho yedolobha, sathola okushaya amanzi, safaka izichibiyelo kweminye yalemithetho eyiphela endlebeni kumalungu ethu.

Ngo-1996, uMasipala wasungula lokhu okuthiwa yi-Informal Trade TaskGroup, edidiyele amakhansela, nabamemeli

*Continued on page 3*

*Iqhubeka ekhasini 3*

The Street Trading bylaws aim to regulate street trade.



Inhloso yemithetho ukulungisela abadayisi basemigwaqweni



trade representatives, and City Council officials including City Police. We were encouraged to send our proposed amendments to the Street Trading bylaws through this Task Group, which we did. Now the new Council has decided to dissolve this group and form a new one consisting only of Councillors from the North Central and South Central Councils. But they seem to have lost the issues which the Task Group was considering, including our proposed amendments to the bylaws. We are constantly having a problem with the City Council starting discussions with us and then changing course in the middle, leaving our issues unresolved. It is only SEWU'S stubborn persistence which forces them to come back to the issues which they were trying to run away from each time.

Although these negotiations are proceeding we, as SEWU, feel that the Informal Business Unit are not clear enough about the concept of negotiations. We are of the opinion that the Municipality management provide some training for them in this field. As a bargaining strategy, we have written to the Councillors of both the North Central and South Central Councils and we are confident that through unity we shall conquer.

bezohwebo oluhlonishwayo nalolo olungahlonishwa, kanye nezikhulu zikaMasipala ezibandakanya namaPhoyisa kaMasipala. Wasiheha ukuba sithumele iziphakamiso zethu zezichibiyelo zemithetho yokudayisela emigwaqweni ngesandla saleTask Group, nebala sakwenza lokho. Manjena uMasipala usebone ukuthi makasibulale lesigungu ukuze asungule esisha esididiyele amaKhansela aphuma eNorth Central neSouth Central Council kuphela. Kodwa kubonakala sengathi ayilahla incwadi equkethe amaphuzu ayekade edingidwa yileTask Group, okukhona kuyo nezichibiyelo zethu zalemithetho yedolobha. Silokhu sinenkinga noMasipala ngokuba aqale izingxoxo nathi, abuye asigwijele kungakafikwa ndawo, ashiye izilokotho zethu zingaxazululiwe. Into eze imphoqe ukuba abuyele emaphuzwini ethu ahlale ewagwema, yinkani uSEWU abelesela ngayo.

Nanxa ziqhubeka lezingxoxo, kodwa thina singuSEWU, sibona sengathi abe-IBU abanawo amakhono okuxoxisana. Sibona sengathi uMasipala kufanele abanike uqeqesho lokuxoxisana. Isu esesilisebenzisile lokuqinisa izingxoxo zethu, kube ukubhalela amaKhansela eNorth Central naweSouth Central. Kodwa siyethemba ukuthi siyophumelela uma simunye.

## SEWU'S NEW OFFICE-BEARERS: TREASURER

Eunice Cawekazi Ntshangase was born in 1954 in Matatiele. She lived there for 18 years. She attended Thutaneng High School, and left after completing Std. 6. Then she moved to Durban to find work, and stayed first in KwaMashu. For three years she worked as a cashier in the canteen of the Corporation in New Germany, and for five years she worked at the New Germany Post Office. During that time she learnt typing at Rand London in Berea, and did a sewing course with Mrs Mkhize in KwaDabeka.

After Eunice got married she stopped her job in 1981, and started sewing at home to make money. From 1990 to 1993 she also worked for the Urban Foundation, teaching women to sew and make candles. She completed courses in candle-making and small business training with the Urban Foundation.

Early in 1994 Eunice joined SEWU. She says: "SEWU helps people to develop their knowledge. I have learnt a lot through SEWU, especially skills development. My situation has changed because I can do more things. I now know how to control meetings and get organised." Eunice attended a workshop on home-based work in Zimbabwe in April 1996, and then she attended the ILO Conference in Geneva, where she participated in the Committee on Homework, which resulted in the adoption of an ILO Convention on Homework. "These are things which I never dreamed of before".



## IZIPHATHIMANDLA EZINTSHA ZIKA-SEWU: UMGGINIMAFU

U-Eunice Cawekazi Ntshangase wazalwa ngo-1954 eMatatiele. Wahamba khona iminyaka engu-18. Wafunda eThutaneng High School, washiya esephothule uStd 6. Waya kofuna umsebenzi eThekwini, waqala wahamba KwaMashu. Iminyaka emithathu wasebenza enkantini kaKopeletsheni waseNew Germany eshaya isisefo, kwathi iminyaka emihlanu wasebenza ePosini laseNew Germany. Ngaso lesosikhathi wafunda ukuthayipha eRand London, eBerea, wenza nezifundo zokuthunga benoNkk. Mkhize KwaDabeka.

Emuva kokushada u-Eunice wayeka ukusebenza ngo-1981, waqala ukuthungela ekhaya ukuze athole imfahlabalana. Kusakela ngo-1990 kuya ku-1993 wasebenza kwa-Urban Foundation, efundisa abesifazane ukuthunga nokwakha amakhandlela. Waphothula izifundo zamakhandlela nezogqesho losomabhizinisi abancane kwa-Urban Foundation.

Ekuqaleni kuka-1994 u-Eunice wajoyina uSEWU. Ubeka kanje: "U-SEWU usiza abantu ukuba bathuthukise ulwazi abanalo. Sengifunde lukhulu ngoSEWU, ikakhulukazi ngentuthuko yamakhono. Isimo engiyisona sesishintshile ngoba sengikwazi ukwenza izinto eziningi. Manje sengiyakwazi ukuphatha imihlangano nokumisa izinto ngomumo." U-Eunice wethamela iworkshop yemisebenzi yasekhaya eZimbabwe ngo-April 1996, wabuye wethamela iNkomfa ye-ILO eGeneva, lapho abamba khona iqhaza eKomitini lomsebenzi wasekhaya, elaba nomphumela wokwamukelwa kwe-ILO Convention on Homework. "Lezi yizinto engangingakaze ngiziphuphe maphambilini."



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Busi Xaba-Shezi represents SEWU in Germany

This visit was organised by the Workers' College for COSATU, NACTU, DENOSA and SEWU trade unionists as well as ILRIG (International Labour Research and Information Group). The purpose of the visit was to discuss and examine the conditions pertaining to the workers in Germany, and devise ways of supporting one another as well as of exchanging knowledge. The following are the three points around which discussions centred: trade union training; worker participation; funds for establishing work opportunities. Busi says this about her trip from 14 September to 8 October 1996: "I regard this visit as a challenge that bore fruits, especially in selling SEWU's policies abroad and forging inter-organisational relationship. I managed to let them join our mailing list as subscribers to our newsletter for the whole year. I also urged them to buy the SEWU video. If they manage to get enough money by way of fundraising, we may be able to send two of our people on a visit to Germany next year. We will be awaiting an invitation from their side. Lastly, the Women's Department of FNV intimated that they might invite us to attend a conference which will take place next year, which will be discussing the strategies of organising the informal sector."

### Beauty Maningi represents SEWU at Homenet workshop in India

In October 1996, Beauty Maningi attended a planning workshop in Ahmedabad, India. The workshop was arranged by Homenet, the international organisation which SEWU belongs to, which co-ordinates the activities of organisations organising home-based workers throughout the world. For two days after the workshop, the delegates were taken around by SEWA to show them how they work. This means that Beauty is now the eighth person from SEWU to go and visit SEWA in India.

### Pat Horn and Ruth Masikane visit West Africa

From 23 October to 17 November, Pat and Ruth visited Ghana, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal in West Africa. The purpose of the trip was to find out more about informal sector organisations in those countries. In the next issue of SEWU News, you will be able to read a full report of what they found out.

### Other international meetings

Pat Horn attended a meeting of the Services Workers Union in Helsinki, Finland, on 20/21 November. She made a speech at the meeting about SEWU's work and the importance of organising workers in the informal sector.

Busi Xaba-Shezi attended a Southern African trade union workshop in Gaborone, Botswana from 26 - 28 November. She presented a session on organising workers in the informal sector. This information is now going to SATUCC (Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council) as it was decided that they have to look into how to organise more informal sector workers in all the Southern African countries.

## EZAMAZWE NGAMAZWE

### UBusi Xaba-Shezi umelele uSEWU kwelaseJalimani

Loluhambo lwaluhlelwe abeWorkers' College benzelela osozinyonyana bakaCOSATU, NACTU, DENOSA noSEWU kanye no-ILRIG (International Labour Research and Information Group). Injongo yaloluhambo kwakuwukuxoxisana nokucubungula izimo eziphathelele nabasebenzi baseJalimani, nokuthola izindlela zokuxhasana kanye nezokuchathazelana ngolwazi. Lokhu okulandelayo kungamaphuzu amathathu izingxoxo ezazigxile kuwo: uqeqesho lwezinyonyana; iqhaza elizobanjwa abasebenzi; izimali zokuvula amathuba emisebenzi. Ake simcaphune ephawula okaXaba-Shezi ngaloluhambo lwangomhla ka-14 September kuya ku-8 October 1996: "Loluhambo ngiluthatha njengenselele eyavuna izithelo, ikakhulu ekudayiseni izinqubomgomo zikaSEWU emazweni aphesheya nasekwakheni ubudlelwane phakathi kwezinhlangano. Ngakwazi ukubaheha ukuba bangene ohlwini lwethu lokuthunyelelwa iphephandaba lethu uma bekhokhele unyaka wonke. Ngabuye ngabakhuthaza ukuba bathenge ivideo kaSEWU. Uma bephumelela ukuthola imali eyenele ngokucela izimali, singakwazi ukuthumela abantu bethu ababili bavakashela kwelaseJalimani ngonyaka ozayo. Sesiylolindela isimemo esiqhamuka kubo. Okokugcina, abomnyango wabesifazane beFNV bakhombisa ukuthi bangahle basimemele kwinkomfa eyobanjwa ngonyaka ozayo, okuyoxoxwa kuyo ngamasu okugqugquzela imboni engahlonishwa ngokomthetho.

### UBeauty Maningi umelele uSEWU kwiworkshop yeHomenet eNdiya

Ngo-October 1996, uBeauty Maningi wethamela iworkshop yokuhlela e-Ahmedabad, kwelaseNdiya. Le-workshop yayihlelwe abeHomenet, okuyinhlangano yamazwe ngamazwe uSEWU angaphansi kwayo, exhumanisa imisebenzi yezinhlangano ezigqugquzela abasebenzi abasebenzela emakhaya emhlabeni jikelele. Izinsuku ezimbili emva kweworkshop, amanxusa avakashiswa nguSEWA ebabonisa ukuthi bona basebenza kanjani. Lokhu kusho ukuthi uBeauty usengumuntu wesishiyagalombili kaSEWU ukuvakashela kwelaseNdiya.

### UPat Horn noRuth Masikane bavakashela eWest Africa

Kusukela ngomhla ka-23 October kuya ku-17 November, uPat noRuth bavakashela eGhana, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire naseSenegal eWest Africa. Injongo yaloluhambo kwakungukufunda kabanzi ngezinhlangano zembali engahlonishwa umthetho kulawomazwe. KwiSEWU News elandelayo niyofunda kabanzi embikweni wezinto abazifunda.

### Eminye imihlangano yamazwe ngamazwe

UPat Horn wethamela umhlangano weServices Workers' Union eHelsinki, eFinland ngomhla ka-20/21 November. Wethula inkulumbo kulomhlangano mayelana nomsebenzi kaSEWU kanye nokubaluleka kokugqugquzela abasebenzi embonini engahlonishwa.

UBusi Xaba-Shezi wethamela iworkshop yosozinyonyana base-Afrika emazansi nenkabazwe eGaborone, kwelaseBotswana kusukela zingu-26 kuya ku-28 November. Wakhuluma kwiseshini yesihloko sokugqugquzela abasebenzi embonini engahlonishwa. Lolulwazi manje seluya kuSATUCC (Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council) njengoba kwanqunywa ukuba icubungule ukuthi bangagqugquzelwa kanjani ngobuningi babo abasebenzi bemboni engahlonishwa kuwo wonke amazwe ase-Afrika emazansi nenkabazwe.