

14/01/85

BACKGROUND:

- launched in November '83.<sub>1</sub>

STRUCTURE:

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

PEWO sees its role as encouraging all women to engage in solving their problems in the community and at work, to participate in the struggle for equal and democratic rights as well as promoting the organisation of women in schools, hospitals etc, striving for the removal of all sexist laws, regulations etc and working towards co-operation with other organisations that share similar aims.<sub>2</sub>

POLITICAL ORIENTATION, PROGRAMME:

PEWO is mainly involved in mobilising women within the oppressed community, although it is open to women of all races and classes.

Through its affiliation to the UDF and its participation in their campaigns etc, it has ensured that the abovementioned aim of encouraging women to participate in the struggle for equal and democratic rights is being promoted.

Since mid '84 there's been little coverage of its activities concerning day-to-day issues facing oppressed women, however, its participation in political events, campaigns etc



became prominent in the media at the beginning of '85. In Feb. '85 the funeral of one of its members, Adelaide Mabuda - a FEDSAW veteran and ANC activist - which was attended by more than 3,000 people, was held in PE. (see attached cutting)<sup>3</sup>

Some of the issues focussed on in their political campaigns, dealt with price increases, unemployment etc. In Feb '85 a mass meeting was held at the New Brighton Rio Cinema where a stayaway call for March 16 - 18 in protest against petrol, paraffin, GST and bus increases as well as massive retrenchments in the area, was made by PEWO and PEBCO and supported and endorsed by other UDF affiliated women's organisations and trade unions. A stayaway committee comprising <sup>PEWO</sup> and other organisations supporting the stayaway was set up.<sup>4</sup>

The campaign which involved a boycott of PE tramway buses and shops in the city and a stayaway from work by Africans proved a great success in terms of demonstrating the authority and power of a community to unite and express opposition to the government, despite the fact that their demands as such were not met.<sup>5</sup>

PEWO has also maintained direct/indirect links with other progressive women's organisations as evidenced by the co-operation of other UDF affiliated women's groups in the March stayaway and PEWO's participation in the UWO AGM in early '85. Speakers from PEWO, Mgwali, etc addressed the general meeting and received a thunderous applause.<sup>6</sup> It also appears to be co-operating with the other progressive regional organisations in launching a national body - an event that has been delayed by the declaration of the state of emergency.

Since the declaration of the '85 State of Emergency there has been little evidence in the media of its activities. Under the second state of emergency, it is listed as one of the organisations affected by a ban on meetings.<sup>7</sup>



PEWO

- 1.
- 2.
3. SNS 14.1.85 PR Jan-March '85 BOX 1
4. Cape Times 25.2.85 PR Jan-March '85; WIP NO37 1985 (WIP BOX)
5. IBID
6. SNS Jan-July '85 WF Jan - June '85
7. Police listing



*Cape Times*  
*Op. les 25/2/85*  
**PE plan  
for 3**  
*days*  
**days of  
protest**  
*3 days*  
*own transport*  
Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A capacity crowd at New Brighton's Rio Cinema yesterday called on police to keep out of the townships during a stayaway planned for March 16, 17 and 18.

The stayaway, described as a long black weekend, is in protest against increased prices and bus fares.

Called by the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organization and Port Elizabeth Women's Organization and attended by about 2 000 people, the meeting unanimously expressed the view that police interference provoked violent and uncontrolled situations.

The planned stayaway will involve the boycott of PE Tramways buses on these dates, no shopping in the city on the Saturday and Monday, and African workers — excluding doctors, nurses and hospital staff — are called on to stay away from work.

The meeting resolved that police escorting delivery vehicles should travel in separate vehicles rather than in the delivery vehicles as the latter provoked violent clashes with youths.

Asked to comment, the police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, Lieutenant-Colonel Gerrie van Rooyen, said police would protect vehicles in the manner they thought best. He did not wish to comment on other claims.



- FUNERALS REFLECT RESISTANCE, *Poplar St 11/85*  
2. ~~11/85~~ 3A ~~11/85~~ Stc.  
The funerals of those who...

On December 30 last year hundreds of people attended the funeral of Jabulani Ngcobo, an ANC cadre killed by Swaziland police on December 16. Ngcobo was accused by the Swazis of having been responsible for the death of a the deputy commissioner of the Swazi security police earlier in the month, a claim which the ANC has strongly denied.

Two South African policemen who entered the home of the deceased on the day of the funeral were attacked by mourners when they tried to question a priest. The funeral service was addressed by representatives of the Federation of South African Women, the Azanian Students Organisation (AZASO) and the Soweto Youth Congress. Mourners sang freedom songs in defiance of the police who were present.

veteran Adelaide Mabuda in Port Elizabeth despite the fact that severe restrictions were placed on the funeral by the local magistrate.

The ceremony was addressed by another Women's Federation veteran, Frances Baard.

Adelaide Mabuda was an official of the Port Elizabeth Women's Organisation. She served five years at the Barbeton Prison in the early 60s for furthering the aims of the ANC. She was also one of the leaders of the famous 1956 march by twenty thousand women on the then prime minister J.G. Strydom in protest against the proposed introduction of passes for African women.