Women who make us look-good

Sactwu is run largely by women and helps the members greatly from household problems to funding for their children’s education, writes Bianca Capazorio.

In 2008, 13,000 jobs were lost. In 2009, 14,516. In 2010 the losses slowed to 10,143. In 2011 the losses slowed to 9,391.

Figures for last year show that the job losses slowed again, but workers still worry.

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Now, about 45 percent of clothing and about 20 percent of textile workers in SA are women, according to Loubser.

The minimum wage for a textile worker varies between R534 and R675 a month. Women’s wages are variable. Most women work in 36-hour shifts, with 12 hours out of every 36 spent in the factory. Seven years ago, when the union was going off-shore, women were striking and losing their jobs. Now, about 45 percent of clothing and about 20 percent of textile workers in SA are women, according to Loubser.

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DISGRUNTLED: South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union member Magaret Ndala speaks in the Good Hope Centre before the street in Salt River.

Workers and their rights. Have fought major battles for vice-president of Cosatu? 1993 became the first femaleurer Connie September who in 2002, the union launched a national organising secretary.

Sactwu, declared in 1987: “The woman’s place is in the kitchen. We say no. A working woman’s shirt is dirtier than a man’s. And a woman’s singer is only a singer.”

Sactwu has been shaped by women, like Harriet Bolton, who last year would eventually receive the Luthuli Order in Bronze for her forces.

Garment Workers Union joined Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, formed in 1934.

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Then there’s Liz Abrahams, national organising secretary .

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