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# How to say it?

**A** CONSIDERABLE number of meetings have been banned in recent weeks. Bannings have been directed at the United Democratic Front and its associated organisations such as the Transvaal Indian Congress, and also at the National Forum.

The usual formula is for a magistrate to issue a banning notice saying he has reason to believe that the public peace will be "seriously endangered" if a particular meeting is held. When a notice of this kind is issued, as it has been, in regard to a United Democratic Front executive meeting to be attended by 10 people, there is natural scope for astonishment and doubt. This is added to because thus far, those meetings of these various organisations actually held have been peaceful.

Indeed the whole purpose of the organisations is to put forward viewpoints peacefully. That is the basis of the creation earlier this year of the two umbrella movements, the United Democratic Front and the National Forum.

As it happens, both of them reject the constitution, and their coming into being is largely so that blacks, coloureds and Indians can convey their views.

The Government's bannings are frustrating this. The UDF and the NF are not being allowed to bring people together for debate on the constitution and to articulate their opposition to it.

There is obvious irony in this. The new constitution is supposed to be for the benefit of coloureds and Indians yet coloureds and Indians are being prohibited from conveying their views on it. It doesn't reveal much Government faith in the constitution, does it?

Another fundamental point arises: if people are prevented from following peaceful paths to declare their views on Government policy, then what are they supposed to do?

The bannings might be suiting the Government's short-term interests in keeping white voters to some extent insulated from the thinking of their fellow South Africans of colour — but what future whirlwind is being built up?

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