

Getting to grips with a current favourite media catchphrase: the em dee em

THE MDM is not an organisation, has no formal structure, and was never officially launched. But it did not materialise out of nowhere. It arose after the banning of the United Democratic Front last year and represents the com-

ing together of Cosatu, the UDF"

and other organisations which were not affiliated to the UDF.

It is quite wrong for the media and politicians to treat the MDM as if it were an organisation," says Professor Douglas Irvine, head of the Department of Political Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg. What used to be referred to in lower case letters has suddenly acquired capitals.

No one has officially established the MDM and it therefore gives the impression of being shadowy. We don't know who the leaders are and we don't know who the followers are. Under these circumstances the MDM lends itself to possible manipulation. However, I am not saying that

the MDM is not supported by a great many people who are pro-democracy," said Professor Irvine.

Because of the emergency it is impossible for an organisation (with the image of the MDM) to have proper organisation with a clear mandate and accountability. MDM started off as a euphemism a kind of blanket term for ANC supporters inside the country.

Freedom Charter
Yunus Carrim, publicity secre-

tary for the Natal Indian Congress, " one of the organisations under the MDM umbrella, confirms that the

title refers to anti-apartheid organisations in the Freedom Charter tradition, which, he says, are mass-based, democratic and

" | non-racial".

They include a wide range of)

_trade union, political, community

" and civic, student youth, women,
~ cultural and professional organ-
isations. These organisations are
bound together in a strategic alli-

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ance, at the core of which are the
UDF and Cosatu.

. â\200\234The concept which the MDM
represents surfaced in the mass
struggles waged between 1984 and
1986. Scores of organisations
sprouted throughout the country
in this period â\200\224 and street, area
and zone committees were formed
in many of the key townships.â\200\235

Together with parent-
/teacher/student associations and
trade unions these groups â\200\230â\200\234consti-
tuted a mass movement â\200\224 whose
features were the size of its mem-
bership and the depth of its demo-
cracyâ\200\235, says Mr Carrim.

Cosatu

The idea of the MDM began to
take root at Cosatuâ\200\231s congress in
1987. The UDF and Cosatu would,
it was decided, co-operate more
closely, and â\200\234the scores of mainly
regionally based UDF affiliates
would be converted into broader
more powerful national organisa-
tions representing youth, women,
civic associations etcâ\200\235, says Mr
Carrim. This idea was re-affirmed
at the Cosatu Congress in July this
year.

After the banning of the UDF in
February . 1988, the alliance be-
tween the UDF and Cosatu was re-
ferred to as the the â\200\234mass demo-
cratic movementâ\200\235, in lower case. A
spokesman confirms that the MDM
is â\200\234still somewhat amorphous, be-
cause of repressive conditions. It
is â\200\230more of a processâ\200\231 than an
organisationâ\200\235.

-Like UDF, the MDM uses power-
fully evocative words in its title.
â\200\234Massâ\200\235 says a spokesman, refers to
the numbers who are represented.
Cosatu, for example, has a paid up
membership of nearly a million
through its participating unions.

â\200\230The UDF, at the time of its ban-
- ning, claimed to have more than

8&â\200\231 affiliated organisations.
her

e these organisations are

legal, the numbers are reflected in
the meetings. You will recall that

we had a'_bout 6 000 at our meeting

What's

p S NTN&S

Y -oR - RS

at Wadley stadium recently. The

word 'mass' is also an oblique way

of excluding Black Consciousness,

Apdusa and other groups, who do

not attract

Democratic

audiences.

that the

large

meansA

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name?

in the

organisation must have structure

and it must be accountable to its
members.

. Under the state of emergency,
ot all organisations falling under
the MDM can conduct meetings

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where the accountability of office
bearers can be validated. But Co-
satu, for instance, has a well-tried
structure of accountability, sald
a spokesman.

!

By calling ourselves demo- |
cratic we specifically exclude In-

katha, which we regard as authori- |
tarian. The MDM is accountable |
when it is allowed to be. It has no |
formal leader and no formal struc- |
ture, except when operating
through the structures of Cosatu,
for example.â\200\235

Broad masses

- UDF acting publicity secretary
Murphy Morobe describes the
MDM as â\200\234that political movement
which unites the broad masses of
the oppressed from all classes and
strata, together with democratic
whites, in action around a pro-
gramme of securing the transfer of

olitical and economic power to

e democratic majority of the
peopleâ\200\235.

He told a Transvaal Indian Con-
gress meeting at the weekend that
the MDM â\200\234recognises the ANC as
the vanguard in the national
democratic struggle; has orga-
nised formations like the UDF, Co-
satu (which form a strategic alli-
ance); has a mass approach to
organisation (thus involving the
masses actively, purposefully and
consistently in their struggles; has
or seeked to have accountable

leadership; and engages in alli-

ances, and campaigns on the basis
of unity in action and united mass
action- behind a common pro-

- grammeâ\200\235.

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Ultimately, says Mr Morobe,
â\200\234there can only be two parties at
the negotiating table â\200\224 the lead-
ers of the present minority Gov-
ernment. . . and those of the demo- |
cratic maJonty, led bythe ANCâ\200\235. |

- So much for MDM spokesmen.
Not all anti-apartheid activists are
impressed by the phemonenon. A -
Black Consciousness spokesman,

decrying-the â\200\234so-called leadersâ\200\235
for rldmg around in luxury cars
) e Sl '.'\

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RATSE T P L e

" { From BRYAN PEARSON
' THE â\200\234Trojan horse trialâ\200\235 â\200\224
' .a private prosecution by pa-
rents of two youths killed in a
' , police ambush â\200\224 was close to

. collapse last night because of

a â\200\230demand that the parents
â\200\230lodge security of almost one
million rand (\$450,000). -

. (The trial, in which 12 South

; can police and an army of-

. ficer are accused of murder by
" ' the parents of the dead youths,
opened â\200\230inâ\200\231the Cape Supreme
Court yesterday. .

| Itâ\200\231immediately hit a snag idantsâ\200\231 b
when the aetenqunte miarns - 6 Defendantsâ\200\231 bid

by LR
:* South Africa law allows for
' theâ\200\231defence to ask for gua-

A &

Jjudze was expected to rule
thÃ© issue early today. EPTMIT
" The trial is the first private

. _Prosecution
South Africa.â\200\235 T
It ' follows " the
-horseâ\200\235

â\200\234the â\200\234Trojan
incident . ' in October

rojan

Dy Shougs
ï¬\202'kghisel ();â\200\2301 G (2 i TN S T
B oy SEONS Inâ\200\231 March â\200\234last 'year anin-
- quest found the police were :
) ki 3= negligent ' and " caused . the-
â\200\230TantÃ©es from private prosecu- deaths.ofShaun Magmoed, -
torsti udvertheir:ldgal costs s 16, Michael Miranda,
in the eventrof acquittal. Th'eâ\200\231.,.fjonathan Claasens, 21.
on_

or . murder in
A S ~only - one - brick and two -or-

been thrown
at the truck. . - B

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horseâ\200\231 trial faces

in Cape Town fipet Y
1985 in which police, who had

been hiding in packing cases
in the back of a truck at Ath-

lone near Cape Town, sprang out and sprayed a crowd with bullets when the truck was stoned. : ;
The incident took place dur-

anti-apartheid violence
black . areas, particularly
.prevalent in Cape Town at
-the time. :

ing a period of wldesprea:dâ\200\230
n.

' He also found 39 rounds of
sho ammunition. had
been fired into the crowd and
there. was no. evidence to
show the. three dead. youths
had thrown stones, , .. i
The parents of two of the

youths started . the private - Th

prosecution after the Attor-
ney-General of Cape Prov-
ince,: Mr Neil Rossouw,
declined to prosecute. - .

Mr Rossouw gave no reason '

SRS deposit could eripple prosecutiond
to boost security

BBC and CBS videos showed

three stones had

â\200\230tificate enabling

11, and . :
s - -The refusal. to prosecute led -
â\200\224The .magistrate said police .
had exaggerated the extent of -
the stoning by ' the crowd. -

for ' ifbâ\200\231tâ\200\234""pro'sqdptâ\200\231lmg, - but
issued a non-prosecution cer-
anyone
unhappy â\200\230with. his decision to
take the matter to court. ..~ "

to .a.public outcry and the
decision by Mrs Georgina
Williams, mother of Michael,
and Mr Martin Magmoed,
father of Shaun, to institute
the private prosecution.

Though Mrs Williams-ang

â\200\230Mr

+ was 'head of the

Force;

.. Tiaan , Ludclff,

., meulen, who commanded the

Magmoed have received

funds from -overseas, - the

battle is expected to be long

and costly .and if the judge

rules they must increase their

security, - the . action . will

almost certainly collapse, |

. The 13 men who have been

subpoenaed in the Trojan

horse case are: Colonel Pie-

ter Janse van Rensburg, who

he South Afri-;

can Police riot unit; Major

Christiaan Ludolff, formerly

of the Railways Police; Com-

mandant Salmon Pienaar of

the South African Defence

Lieutenant = Douw:

\n] formerly 'of

the : Railways . Police; - Coms .

mandant Salmon Pienaar of the

the South African Defence

Force; Lieutenant Douw Ver-"

men.on the truck; Sergeant-:

F. van- Niekerk, Sergeant J,-

-Burger, ;

Constable Ww. >

Puchert, Constable P. du Toit,

Warrant-Officer A.. Swart,

Sergeant J. Sayer, Constable .

A. Smit, Constable A. Rossel .

and Serge:m}1 g}.M Smit. SR

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10~ THE AUSTRALIAN Friday August 4 1989

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' JOHANNESBURG: Sco-

an anti-apartheid campaign. | -

of-black patiÃ©nts demand-
â\200\234medicalâ\200\231attention . were
dmitfed : to* â\200\234whites onlyâ\200\235:
hospitals:... y

s yesterday Lfor the
first time after pressure from

â\200\230Organisers ' promised a
mounting campaign of de

- At least, 260 sick black.people
wereistreated in â\200\230iwhites-only,
' hospitals; in Transvaal and
Natal provinces.: ff f. @0
- â\200\234The defiance campaign will
be taken â\200\230to every corner and;
every section of society â\200\230until
apartheid /| is unworkable,â\200\235:

1) I R A
TR ot
A

&

that

hat the, people in the vicinity

get' | admitted = there,â\200\235: Mr
CoovaÃ»dia,gg:._t,old the . rally.
â\200\234Should ' â\200\230'they be refused

â\200\230treatment, we will make sure

. that the whole world gets to
know about it.â\200\235. Rt

The campaign will broaden,

..of ,whites-only ; hospitals . will ..

with individuals and sorgani- .
,;sations openlyâ\200\231 defying gov-
ilernment ' restrictions in a

series of open challenges to :

emergency regulations.

"A spokesman for the United Democratic Front (UDF), which has been largely silent since it was forbidden early last year to carry out any political activities, said the

trade union leader Mr Jay umbrella group would unban

Naideo told & rally at Johan-nesburg's medical school. Hospital authorities readily

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itself by holding an, overtly, political meeting. On Sunday, people bound to .

rted - some of the black their homes after dark under :) others official restriction orders will - X & ; Ik". 41

to black li?gpp}?a_sl ' e
Sik ERYictory g7ey

The union; youth and other groups, allied " as the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM), said the protest was

break their curfew by attend-

ing an evening church service.: A few, openly! defied restric- yMons yesterday by attending a political meeting. " B

" MDM leaders says the protests aim to be peaceful, but

' the Government has accused

an initial victory in a campaign set to culminate with al T\fvng.h@.ngdupgren::: " were . week of! as. yet' unspecified

" thrown into-the Soweto-town-

___action before- general elec-! ship home' of a black police

L

tions on September st
The black majork
vote inith

people were used as pawns by coloured |
* 3 small group of radicals... & ' . joining a march in the centre:

Any changes in health leg-

colonel ' | yesterday -~ evening,

8.

ty cannot . severely injuring one of his two

arliamentary sons and, wounding him and
poll. #4 "i 3t ALEE UHEENEE

" /The' Healthâ\200\235 Minister; Mr.

. Willie van Niekerk, scoffed at.
the ' campaign, ;saying:- â\200\234SicklÂ» protests, I i police s 4 stopped..

hool pupilsf from

&7 the other boy less seriously. .. <"

In the only tense confronta-

"'tion reportedâ\200\231 in yesterday's

{

"of ' Cape Townâ\200\231s suburb of

islation will occur inside and'j Mitchell's Plain. =

-, hot outside Parliament.â\200\235 /' ' Witnesses 'saidâ\200\231 the police ;
â\200\230An. MDM . spokesman, Mr fired tear gas and youths built
Cas Coovadia, said pressure * barricades across streets. i -

â\200\230against segregation of hospi-':
â\200\230tals would notletup. <

â\200\230yolved * black = mineworkers

â\200\230Other protests yesterday in-

|
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MDM : members = had . ex-

. pressed fears of attack on the
hospital - protesters - by~ ex-Â«
treme right-wing whites, after
the :distribution of = leafletsâ\200\231
threatening them with death
in the name of a shadowy '

group called = the White
. Wolves. Â©. H, L g S

, The largest protest turnout -
g n was_ at'Durbanâ\200\231s Addington*
â\200\234From today we will ensure - using a canteen for whites Hospital,â\200\235 which tr
eated â\200\234150 -

he e

anci'ridihg'ii'lhitek-only_bï~\201ses..iâ\200\230hon'â\200\224wh'it"e" " patients ~ while

about . 2000 . protesters gath-
ered outside. ;-
â\200\234The_ only arrests connected

with the demonstration were !

of .12. middle-aged white
women of the .anti-apartheid

.7 WORLDNEWS

Black Sash â\200\230movementâ\200\231 who"

â\200\230were held briefly by police
--after picketing a main road in |
. Johannesburg in support of

the defiance campalgn, .= . â\200\2304

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.+ 1. Reuters o

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B0 s T iRt

"White nurse fends|a black,patient at the whites-only*Johannesburg Hospital (above) while anti-apartheid activists parade through the hospital grounds (top) â\200\224 Reuters pictures .

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