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Chief quits after scandal

Merwe, 36, and Mr Aldworth, 50, both of whom are married, stunned the local business community. They met when, as head of Barclays, Mr Aldworth invested R14m to launch Barsan, her marketing and public relations firm. Professor Van der Merwe said the relationship was not a scandal but "honest" and Mr Aldworth insisted his personal feelings would not affect his business dealings.

Mr Aldworth's wife, Katherine, and Dr Andre van der Merwe, have both steadfastly refused to comment on the relationship between their spouses. The Aldworths were married in 1954 while Professor Van der Merwe married in 1973. However, most criticism has centred around the link between Barclays and Barsan rather than the couple's private life. Under the heading "Not

a Private Matter", the Financial Mail said in December that Barclays was Professor Van der Merwe's main client and would soon make her a millionaire. Use of the name of Barclays Bank was "an asset of inestimable value". Professor Van der Merwe's company was the brains behind Barclays' new advertising image aimed at the young business community.



Mr Bob Aldworth

Boesak calls for united front

By ENRICO KEMP

DR Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, has described the Labour Party's decision to participate in the government's constitutional plan as "disgusting" and "reeking of opportunism". In an interview yesterday, he said the party had now "lost whatever respect it might have had" and predicted a united front of opposition from community organizations, sports bodies and churches against coloured participation in the proposed tri-cameral parliament of whites, coloured people and Indians. "What is surprising — and disgusting — is the eagerness with which they have accepted the government's proposals. They have done so unconditionally, knowing that it is based on acceptance of the fact that the home-lands policy would be irreversible and that all the basic tenets of apartheid, such as race classification and the Group Areas Act, remain intact and cannot be changed."



Dr Allan Boesak

'Self-respect'
Dr Boesak, who is also the Assessor of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Sendingkerk, the second most powerful position in the church, said he believed that the Labour Party leadership had "other motives — position and money" for agreeing to participate in the constitutional scheme. He said the resignation of Mr Norman Middleton, a founding member, and other top party members in protest against the decision to participate was "the only thing to do if they wanted to maintain their self-respect". Dr Boesak said that although the Labour Party had "minute" support in urban and rural areas, he believed that the party had lost support in recent years. "It was always true that the Labour Party never represented the 'coloured' community. Even in the days of the old CRC, it operated within 20 percent of the people who thought that by participating in the CRC, they could bring about a meaningful change." Asked whether he foresaw a united front of opposition to participation in the constitutional plan, Dr Boesak said: "All community organizations, sport organizations and the churches have so far clearly and unequivocally rejected both the PC and its proposals on political and moral grounds. "And these organizations do, in fact, represent the vast majority of the people in the urban and rural areas."

'No child's play'
He said a united front against the proposals was likely because "people realize it is no longer the child's play of the CRC coloured politics — this is historic stuff. "People realize in this era the strength of our position in what I call the 'politics of refusal' — for the lack of real political



One-hundred-and-four boys, aged between six and nine, who are enjoying a week-long holiday at the Cape Times Fresh Air Camp at Froggy Pond, near Simon's Town, went fishing yesterday afternoon. Among the first to land any fish were these five. As soon as these "whoppers" were landed, they were measured for the record and then tossed back into the sea.

Picture: Clarence Muller

JMB exam results: See page 5

Vital Beira-Zimbabwe oil pipeline blown up

HARARE — The vital fuel pipeline from the Mozambique port of Beira to Zimbabwe's eastern border city of Mutema was damaged in another sabotage attack on Wednesday night, at the height of Zimbabwe's most serious fuel crisis. Harare sources said an explosion made a large hole in the pipeline near the midway point at Mafora, where Zimbabwe troops have been stationed to protect the line. An official of the Lonrho company, which owns the pipeline, would not comment on the report yesterday. The pipeline was believed to be due to restart, pumping in the next few

days after its closure on December 8, when fuel storage tanks at Beira and the entry connections to the line were sabotaged by Mozambican rebels. The current fuel shortage in Zimbabwe has led to all-night queues of cars at city filling stations. Cars are left in queues at suburban filling stations for three or more days as motorists try to keep their vehicles on the road. Petrol queue parties have become a distraction for motorists, with friends gathering round portable braais, cooler bags and portable radio and television sets. The fuel pipeline, which reopened last July

after 15 years of closure by sanctions against Rhodesia, is capable of carrying all Zimbabwe's requirements of diesel and petrol. But it has been subject to repeated sabotage attempts. There have been persistent reports in Zimbabwe that the government has signed a three-year contract for the supply of petrol and diesel from Sasol in South Africa. But in a year-end television interview, the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said Zimbabwe had not signed an agreement at ministerial level — a reported condition imposed by the South African Government. — Sapa

Man who ran amok dies

Own Correspondent JOHANNESBURG — A Railways policeman who ran amok and went on a shooting rampage in Kimberley on Sunday died in Kimberley Hospital early yesterday. Twenty-two year old Constable J J van der Westhuizen had been in a critical condition after an operation to remove a bullet from his back. Major Pat Higgs, Kimberley's police liaison officer, said yesterday that the three men wounded in Sunday's gun-battle, Sergeant H J Pelsner, Mr Pierre Venter and Mr J H L van Niekerk, were all in

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Warning on False Bay bluebottles

BLUEBOTTLES have been causing consternation at False Bay Beach where 25 people, including an eight-year-old boy, were stung yesterday.

Mr David Hersch, PRO for the Western Province Lifesaving Association, said the unidentified child was so badly stung that he had to be rushed to a doctor.

Bluebottles stung 132 people last weekend at Mnandi Beach, and Mr Hersch has appealed to parents of young children to check the water and the beaches for signs of bluebottles in future.

"A bluebottle sting can prove fatal to a child who is allergic to it.

"Bluebottles have become a major problem at

False Bay where the south-easter blows them in from the deep sea. The same applies to the Atlantic Ocean when a north-wester wind blows."

Mr Hersch said that if parents were not sure of how rife bluebottles were on a certain day, they should ask the lifesavers, whose green-and-gold costumes were unmistakable.

He said the national medical panel of the Surf Lifesaving Association of Southern Africa had recommended that mothers put vinegar on bluebottle stings and then scrape the area with a sharp instrument.

Vinegar should then be applied a second time to de-toxify the sting, after which the pain should subside.

A *****
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power, saying 'no' to any scheme which is politically immoral."

Dr Boesak was also asked to comment on an article in the Nationalist mouthpiece, the Burger, which quoted the Labour Party leader, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, saying that Dr Boesak and Professor Jakes Gerwel, dean of the faculty of arts at the University of the Western Cape, "work within the system and receive their cheques from coloured administrations."

Dr Boesak said: "I am the student chaplain at UWC, but this is a church post. I am a minister of the church. Jakes Gerwel has also never been a part of any attempt to sell out our people."

Professor Gerwel said

last night that Mr Hendrickse was "drawing a false analogy by equating the Labour Party's chosen position with that of other State-salaried people, such as teachers and university lecturers."

"One should not waste time on this kind of comparison, but rather address the real issues raised by the Labour Party's decision, being, among others, that they have chosen to enter into an arrangement which has tremendous polarizing potential within an already dangerously divided society."

He said the Labour Party could not be equated with "the coloured people" and any inference that the "coloured people" had chosen to cooperate with the government was premature.

Shortly before the end of the party's conference in Eshowe, Mr Middleton rose from his seat at the back of the town hall to announce his resignation.

It was greeted by ironic applause from some delegates, but most were respectfully silent.

Mr Middleton picked up his briefcase and quietly made his way out.

"I have a feeling of deep sadness," he said later. "I was a founder member of the party, and throughout the 18 years of my association with it, it has never taken a decision in this way."

He was referring to the controversial decision to participate in the government's proposed three-chamber parliament, for which elections are due later this year.

'Insult to blacks'

He believes others will resign after reconsidering their decision.

He felt the party should have consulted the coloured people before making its move.

"The party doesn't know what it is agreeing to."

Referring to a statement by the national chairman, Mr David Curry, that the Labour Party would negotiate on behalf of disenfranchised Africans, Mr Middleton said this was an "insult to black people."

"How can the party pretend to represent Inkatha? Coloureds may be part of the black nation, but they possess privileges denied Africans."

Mr Middleton, first president of the South African Council of Sport, said he had devoted his life to the political struggle for black rights and this would continue.

"My work as a unionist (as co-ordinator of the Council of Unions of SA) will go on" — Sapa

the British and United States governments.

Mr Heunis said in Pretoria that the government was grateful and impressed "with the responsibility and positive attitude" with which "the greater majority" of coloured people had approached the issue.

"It offers tangible proof that when reasonable leaders negotiate in a positive spirit, rewards shall be forthcoming."

Mr Heunis cautioned, however, that it was not possible to reach "absolute agreement" on everything immediately. But the "sound understanding" already reached formed a basis for progress.

● The Labour Party's decision was an "encouraging sign" and showed that "peaceful evolutionary change" was taking

● Simon Barber reports from Washington that the Reagan administration has welcomed the Labour decision.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said: "In the context of our policy of constructive engagement, we have said simply that advocates of peaceful change in South Africa away from apartheid towards a system of government by consent of the governed can look to the United States for encouragement and support."

While noting that the coloured proposals "do not address the fundamental question of national political rights for the 72 percent of South Africans who are black", he added, "the process of change is under way, and we support it".

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