

MP 'high' over dagga bill

Terminally ill patients and those with chronic pain may be one step closer to being allowed access to cannabis to treat their illnesses.



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Political parties in the National Assembly decided yesterday, 23 November 2016, to put their political differences aside and agreed to work together to ensure access to medicinal marijuana.

The agreement was reached during a meeting of the portfolio committee on health, where the Medical Innovations Bill was discussed.

The bill was submitted by the IFP's Narend Singh. It calls for access to and regulation of cannabis for medical use.

The bill was written by IFP MP Mario Ambrosini, who campaigned for the use of the drug to treat his lung cancer. He introduced the bill shortly before his death and Singh took up the campaign.

Singh said yesterday he felt "like I am on a high" having seen the steps the Department of Health and the Medicines Control Council had taken to ensure the drug could be used to treat pain, nausea and spasms associated with illnesses such as cancer, HIV and multiple sclerosis.

Donabinol, which contains the active ingredient of cannabis, THC, is available as a schedule six drug. A prescription is needed.

Source: The Times

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