



Now it's A for Away for the "A Class Party Collection" Medicine Control Council bans pill which "keeps you going all night"

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By Dolf Dreyer



A party pill that makes you "dance all night" and promising you "mind-altering experiences," available across the counter at bottle stores, tobacconists and speciality stores has now been banned by the Medicines Control Council of South Africa (MCCSA). The Council also stopped importation of the pills as well as those similar to them.

MadibengPulse issued a warning on 18 June that the pills sold over the counter as "charge" or "push" or "red hearts" or "ice diamonds" energy pills cautioned, "These pills have very strong effects".

Ms Imelda Neate of Drug Testing South Africa, who sent out the original warning about the party pills containing substances which are banned in South Africa, told *MadibengPulse* that her organisation had been contacted by the distributors of the party pill "threatening legal action because of defamation."

"We've been in contact with the MCCSA," Ms Neate said, "and they've informed us that they are in the process of making the A-Class party pill a banned substance. Parties distributing the product could be prosecuted for dealing in illegal substances because the party pills contain Benzylpiperazine (BZP) an ingredient found in the drug ecstasy," she said.

MadibengPulse reported that although the packaging of 'party pills' quoted an MCC registration number, a check with that Council did not show such registration in its records. Now the MCC has decided to ban the pills as well as all similar products.

So that then is the end of the party for the pill which "alters perceptions and gets you sideways."