

Amanda Medina



My issue in Nary Park is THE LACK OF
CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE COUNSELLORS AT MY
LOCAL CLINIC!

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Knowingly living with HIV since 2002 and on treatment since 2007.

I got tested in 2002 after my child who had tested positive for HIV passed away. In 2005 I fell pregnant again and my second child died at six months after which the baby's father soon followed (2006). I was not informed about the PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) programme until in 2009 when I decided to have another child. I enrolled for the programme and received my medication on time and my child is now healthy.

When I disclosed my status to my family, they were very supportive and with good intention, my mother disclosed to neighbours who kept gossiping behind my back. This was a stressful time in my life and I couldn't take it, so I took matters into my own hands and would sjambok anybody who was gossiping about me. This made me notorious and fuelled more gossip. It took some time before I could realise that the way in which I was addressing this issue was not civil and was just perpetuating more stigma – I didn't want to be a part of that, so I eventually apologised! My issue in Ivory Park is the lack of confidentiality of the counsellors at my local clinic!



HAVE YOUR SAY!
