

THE PEOPLE'S COST OF CARE REPORT

*Public Perspectives on the Proposed N2 Wall and
the Allocation of R115 Million of Public Funds*



**Over 17,000 voices consulting
South African decision-makers.**

Copyright

The People's Cost of Care Report

Public Perspectives on the Proposed N2 Wall and the Allocation of R115 Million of Public Funds

© 2026 Candice Leigh King

Published 2026

This is an independent public-interest publication created to document and share the findings and public responses from the consultation concerning the proposed R115 million N2 Wall along the Cape Flats.

This report may be freely shared, reproduced and referenced for non-commercial, educational, research, media and public-interest purposes, provided that the source is clearly acknowledged and the report is not misrepresented or altered in a way that changes its meaning.

About the Author

Candice Leigh King is an author and activist whose work focuses on community-led change, social justice and creating practical pathways towards safer, more equitable and prosperous communities.

Cover Image

Johnny Miller / Unequal Scenes

Used with permission.

unequalscenes.com

The cover photograph remains the copyright of Johnny Miller / Unequal Scenes. Permission to reproduce the photograph applies only to its use in this publication.

Written responses reproduced in this report are included to document the views expressed by participants in the consultation. Quotations have been reproduced as submitted.

Licence: This publication is made available for public-interest use. Please credit *The People's Cost of Care Report, Candice Leigh King, 2026* when reproducing or referencing the work.

THE PEOPLE'S COST OF CARE REPORT

*Public Perspectives on the Proposed N2 Wall and
the Allocation of R115 Million of Public Funds*

About This Report.....	3
Forward.....	4
Consultation Methodology.....	6
Purpose of the Consultation.....	6
Consultation Design.....	6
Participant Recruitment and Accessibility.....	7
Analysis of Responses.....	7
Participation Profile.....	8
Overview.....	8
Participant Connection to the Cape Flats.....	8
Findings.....	10
Views on the Proposed N2 Wall.....	10
Views on the Proposed N2 Wall by Connection to the Cape Flats.....	10
Discussion of the Findings.....	11
Community Investment Priorities for the Allocation of R115 Million.....	12
Messages to Decision-Makers.....	15
Overall Findings.....	35
Investment Priorities and the Written Messages.....	35
Safety and the Proposed N2 Wall.....	35
What the Written Responses Add.....	36
A Consistent Picture Across the Consultation.....	37
The Central Finding.....	37
Discussion.....	39
Conclusion.....	43
Appendices.....	45
Appendix A: Consultation Questionnaire.....	45
Appendix B: Analysis and Thematic Coding Framework.....	47
Appendix C: Selected Participant Quotes Organised by Theme.....	50
Sources and Data.....	57

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The People's Cost of Care Report presents the findings of an independent public consultation on the proposed N2 Wall and the allocation of approximately R115 million in public funds.

The consultation invited members of the public to share their perspectives on the proposed project, identify priorities for the investment of public funds, and submit written messages to decision-makers regarding the proposed expenditure. The consultation received more than 17,200 participant responses, including more than 12,900 written submissions. Together, these responses documented not only public perspectives on the proposal itself, but also the broader priorities, concerns and aspirations expressed by participants.

This report serves as a public record of those contributions. It is intended to support informed discussion by presenting the consultation findings accurately, transparently and in their proper context. While the consultation attracted substantial public participation, it was voluntary and independently conducted. Accordingly, the findings reflect the perspectives of those who chose to participate and should not be interpreted as a statistically representative sample of the South African population.

This report does not seek to prescribe a particular policy outcome. Instead, it presents the findings of the consultation as evidence intended to inform public discussion and support evidence-informed decision-making.

By making these perspectives publicly accessible, *The People's Cost of Care Report* seeks to strengthen democratic participation and contribute to informed decision-making. It is offered as a resource to support evidence-informed public dialogue and to ensure that the perspectives shared through this consultation form part of the broader conversation about community safety, public investment and South Africa's shared future.

FOREWORD

Democracy is not something we practise only on election day. It is lived every day through meaningful opportunities for people to participate in shaping the decisions that affect their lives, their communities and their shared future.

In a healthy democracy, meaningful public participation is not simply encouraged—it is an essential responsibility of democratic governance. When governments make decisions about significant public investment, they also have a responsibility to create genuine opportunities for the people most affected to contribute their knowledge, lived experience and aspirations to those decisions. More informed and effective decisions are made when communities are recognised not merely as those affected by public policy, but as partners in shaping it.

It was this conviction that led me to undertake this independent public consultation.

As public discussion surrounding the proposed N2 Wall grew, I became increasingly aware of the diverse and passionate perspectives being shared by South Africans. Some believed the wall would improve safety along the N2 corridor. Others questioned whether allocating approximately R115 million to its construction represented the most effective use of public funds. While the public conversation focused largely on whether the wall should or should not be built, I found myself asking a different question:

If communities were invited into this conversation, what would they say?

More specifically, how did they believe R115 million could best be invested to create communities that are safer, more prosperous and able to flourish for generations to come?

Rather than adding another opinion to an already polarised debate, I wanted to create a space where members of the public could speak for themselves. This consultation was founded on a simple belief: people possess knowledge and insight that cannot be acquired through reports, budgets or technical assessments alone. Whether they live in the Cape Flats, travel the N2 corridor, or are otherwise connected to this issue, their lived experience is a form of expertise that deserves to be heard alongside every other source of evidence that informs public decision-making.

Those whose lives are affected by public decisions have a genuine interest in creating a safer, more prosperous and flourishing South Africa. They understand both the challenges and the opportunities that exist because they encounter them in their daily lives. Their perspectives are shaped by the realities they experience every day and by a shared desire to see the places they call home flourish.

This is not simply a question of good policy. It is a question of how we make decisions that not only shape people's lives, but also shape the future of South Africa.

Listening is not charity. It is an act of humility. It recognises that no government, institution or expert possesses all the knowledge needed to build flourishing communities. That knowledge also exists within the people who live there every day. Listening is therefore both an expression of humility and an essential practice of democracy. When we listen well, we create the conditions for more informed decisions, stronger communities and a more just society.

The purpose of this report is not to prescribe a particular policy outcome. It is to faithfully document what participants chose to share and to ensure that those perspectives become part of the public record. My hope is that this report encourages those who read it to consider the evidence it presents, to take seriously the knowledge and aspirations shared by participants, to recognise the value of trusting communities as partners in shaping their own future, and to reflect carefully on how public investment can best contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities.

Ultimately, this report is about more than the proposed N2 Wall. It is about the kind of society we aspire to build together: one where public decisions are informed by the people they affect, where every person's dignity is recognised, and where people are trusted not only to identify the challenges they face, but also to contribute to the solutions they believe will help their communities flourish. I believe that when we listen well, we make better-informed decisions. And when people are given meaningful opportunities to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, democracy itself is strengthened.

Candice Leigh King

Author, Independent Researcher and Humanitarian

CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

Purpose of the Consultation

The purpose of this consultation was to provide members of the public with an opportunity to share their perspectives on the proposed N2 Wall and the allocation of approximately R115 million in public funds.

Rather than seeking only to measure levels of support or opposition to the proposed project, the consultation was designed to understand how participants believed these public funds could best contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities. It also invited participants to communicate directly with decision-makers by sharing their own written messages regarding the proposed expenditure.

The consultation was founded on the belief that people affected by public decisions possess valuable knowledge, lived experience and aspirations that should form part of public discussion. By creating an opportunity for meaningful public participation, the consultation sought to document these perspectives and preserve them as part of the public record.

Consultation Design

The consultation was conducted independently using Google Forms between **23 July 2026** and **6 August 2026**.

The questionnaire consisted of six questions designed to collect both quantitative and qualitative information. Three questions were mandatory and gathered information relating to participants' views on the proposed N2 Wall, whether they currently lived in the Cape Flats, and how they believed approximately R115 million should be invested. Participants were invited to select up to five investment priorities from a predefined list, which included the proposed N2 Wall alongside a range of alternative investment options. The questionnaire also provided an "Other" option, allowing participants to suggest priorities not included in the list. Although participants were encouraged to select no more than five priorities, a small number selected more.

Three additional questions were optional. Participants were invited to submit a written message to decision-makers regarding the proposed expenditure, indicate whether they wished to remain involved in the conversation, and voluntarily provide an email address for future communication.

To ensure consistency throughout the consultation, the questionnaire remained unchanged after its publication. No questions were added, removed or amended during the consultation

period, ensuring that all participants responded to the same set of questions under the same conditions.

Google Forms was configured to limit participation to one response per participant, reducing the likelihood of duplicate submissions and helping to preserve the integrity of the dataset.

Participant Recruitment and Accessibility

The consultation remained open to anyone who wished to participate during the consultation period. While the consultation was independently conducted and participation was self-selected, the substantial level of public engagement reflects widespread interest in the proposed N2 Wall and the allocation of public funds.

It was primarily distributed through social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. Participants also shared the consultation extensively through their own personal and professional networks, resulting in broad organic distribution through word of mouth and online sharing.

Recognising that not everyone has reliable access to the internet or digital devices, efforts were made to support participation wherever possible. Some participants completed the questionnaire with assistance from family members, employers, community leaders and other members of their communities. This helped ensure that people who wished to participate but faced practical barriers were still able to contribute their perspectives.

Participation was voluntary and there were no eligibility requirements.

Analysis of Responses

Following the close of the consultation, all responses were exported from Google Forms for analysis.

Responses to the closed-ended questions were summarised to calculate the frequencies and percentages presented throughout this report. The written messages submitted by participants were reviewed manually to identify recurring themes, priorities and perspectives. Selected quotations are included throughout the report to illustrate these findings and preserve participants' own words.

Throughout the analysis, every effort was made to present participants' perspectives accurately and faithfully.

PARTICIPATION PROFILE

Overview

The consultation received **17,265 responses** between 23 July and 6 August 2026, and represented a broad range of perspectives on the proposed N2 Wall and the allocation of approximately R115 million in public funds. Of these, 12,951 contained an entry in the written-message field. After excluding 36 entries that were blank-equivalent or otherwise non-substantive, 12,915 substantive written messages remained for qualitative analysis.

Engagement extended beyond the completion of the questionnaire itself. **More than 12,900** substantive written messages were submitted to decision-makers, providing qualitative insights into their priorities, concerns and aspirations. Furthermore, **16,222 participants** indicated that they wished to remain involved in the conversation. Of these, **9,942 participants** voluntarily provided an email address to facilitate future communication.

The level of participation demonstrates that many people were willing not only to express an opinion, but also to invest time in sharing their experiences, ideas and aspirations for the future. The substantial number of written submissions, together with the large proportion of participants who expressed a desire to remain involved, suggests a strong public willingness to participate in conversations about community safety, public investment and the decisions that shape people's lives.

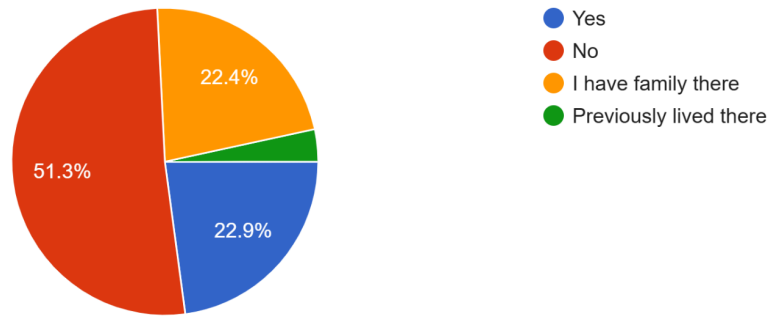
Participant Connection to the Cape Flats

Participants were asked about their connection to the Cape Flats in order to better understand the range of perspectives represented in the consultation. The proposed N2 Wall has implications for people with different relationships to the Cape Flats. This question therefore sought to capture the diversity of perspectives represented among participants.

Participants represented a broad range of connections to the Cape Flats. Specifically, **22.9%** indicated that they currently lived in the Cape Flats, **22.4%** reported having family living there, **3.4%** had previously lived there, and **51.3%** indicated that they did not currently live in the Cape Flats.

Figure 1. Participants Connection to the Cape Flats

Do you currently live in the Cape Flats?
17,265 responses



Source: The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.

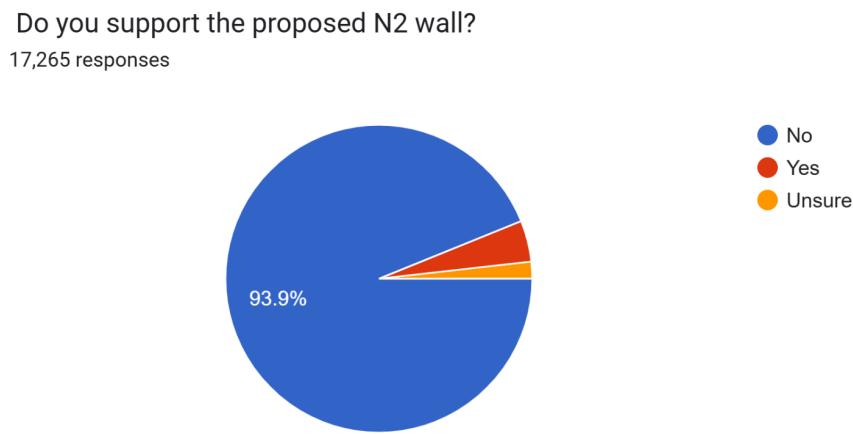
These findings demonstrate that participation was not limited to a single community or perspective. Instead, the consultation attracted engagement from people with differing relationships to the issue, reflecting broader public interest in community safety, public investment, and the proposed N2 Wall.

FINDINGS

Views on the Proposed N2 Wall

Participants were asked whether they supported the proposed N2 Wall. This question sought to understand participants' overall views on the proposal before exploring their priorities for the allocation of approximately R115 million in public funds.

Figure 2. Views on the Proposed N2 Wall



Source: The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.

These findings indicate that participants in this consultation expressed overwhelming opposition to the proposed N2 Wall. Of the 17,265 participants who responded to this question, **16,210 (93.9%)** indicated that they did not support the proposal. A further **309 participants (1.8%)** indicated that they were unsure, while **746 participants (4.3%)** indicated that they supported the proposed N2 Wall.

To better understand whether these views differed according to participants' connection to the Cape Flats, responses were also examined across the different participant groups identified earlier in this report.

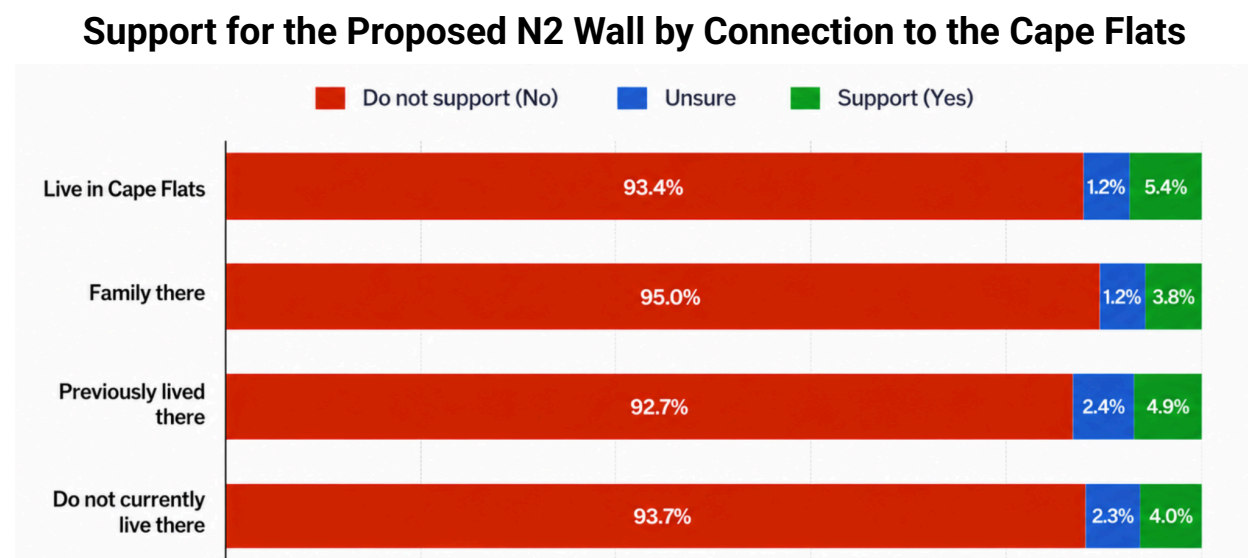
Views on the Proposed N2 Wall by Connection to the Cape Flats

While participants had different relationships to the Cape Flats, their views on the proposed N2 Wall were remarkably consistent across all groups.

Among participants currently living in the Cape Flats, **93.4%** did not support the proposal. Among those with family living in the Cape Flats, **95.0%** did not support it. Similarly, **92.7%** of

former residents and **93.7%** of participants who did not currently live in the Cape Flats also indicated that they did not support the proposed N2 Wall.

Figure 3. Support for the Proposed N2 Wall by Connection to the Cape Flats



Source: The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.

These findings suggest that participants' relationship to the Cape Flats had little influence on overall levels of support for the proposed N2 Wall. High levels of non-support were observed consistently across all four groups, indicating that views on the proposal were remarkably similar regardless of participants' connection to the Cape Flats.

Discussion of the Findings

Taken together, these findings show a strong degree of consistency in participants' views of the proposed N2 Wall. Overall, 93.9% of participants indicated that they did not support the proposal, and similarly high levels of non-support were recorded among participants with different connections to the Cape Flats.

While this consultation does not claim to be statistically representative of the South African population, the consistency across participant groups provides useful context for interpreting the overall finding. Opposition to the proposed wall was not confined to participants living in the Cape Flats, but was also evident among those with family connections, former residents, and participants who do not live there.

The consultation was designed not only to understand participants' views on the proposed N2 Wall, but also to explore how they believed approximately R115 million could best be invested to

contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities. The following section examines the investment priorities identified by participants and explores how they believed public investment could best contribute to those outcomes.

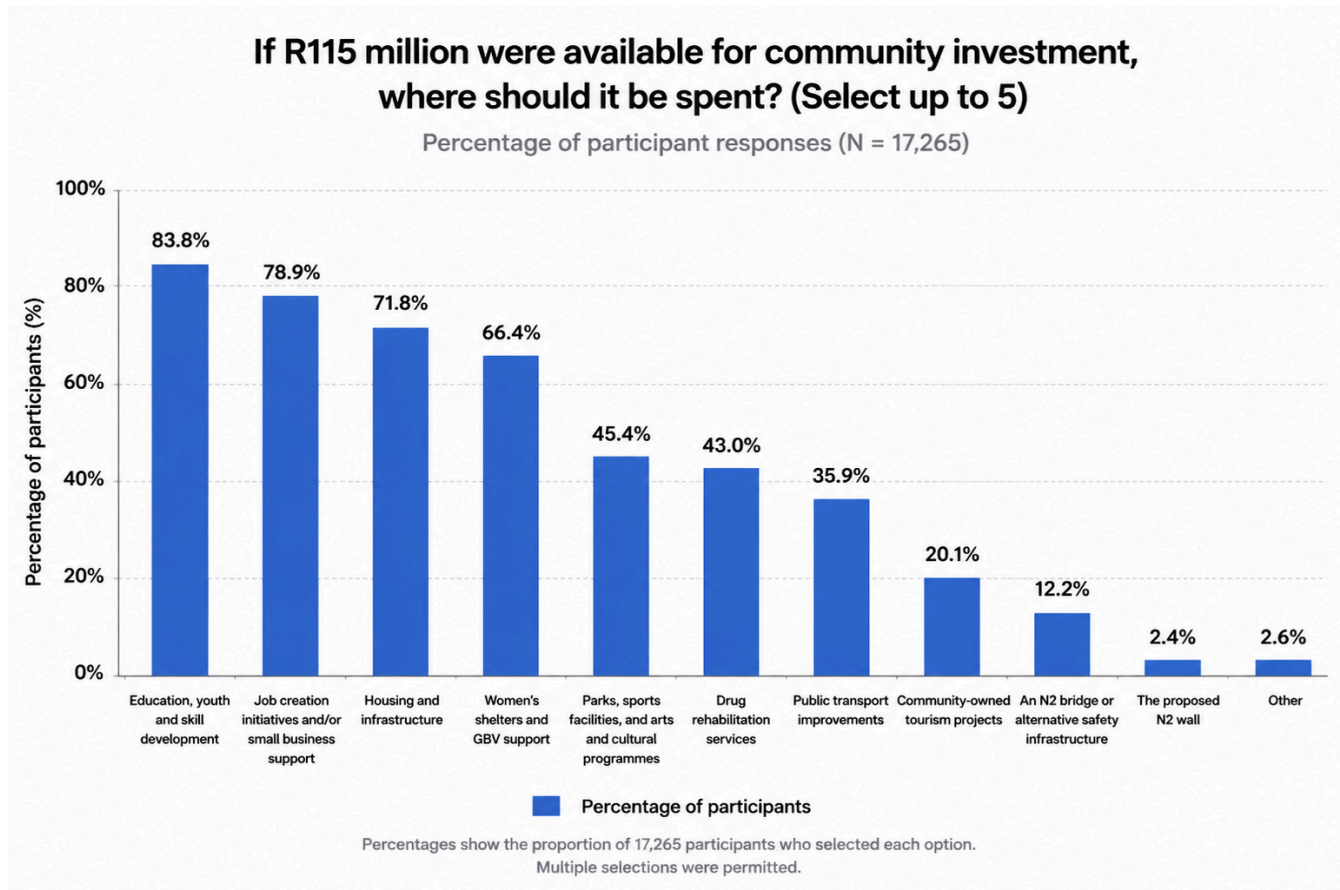
Community Investment Priorities for the Allocation of R115 Million

Following the question on support for the proposed N2 Wall, participants were invited to consider how approximately **R115 million** in public funds could best be invested.

Rather than asking only whether participants supported or opposed the proposed N2 Wall, the consultation invited them to identify the community investments they believed would make the greatest contribution to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities. Participants were invited to select **up to five** priorities from a predefined list of investment options. The proposed N2 Wall was included alongside a range of alternative community investment priorities, and participants also had the opportunity to suggest additional priorities by selecting "**Other.**"

This question was designed to explore the broader investment priorities identified by participants and to understand how they believed significant public investment could best contribute to their communities.

Figure 4. Community Investment Priorities



Source: *The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.*

What Participants Prioritised

The ranking of investment priorities shows a clear preference for investment in people, opportunity and the conditions that shape everyday life in communities.

Education, youth and skill development was the most frequently selected priority, identified by 14,471 participants (83.8%). It was followed by **job creation initiatives and/or small business support**, selected by 13,614 participants (78.9%), and **housing and infrastructure**, selected by 12,400 participants (71.8%).

Other highly selected priorities included **women's shelters and GBV support**, identified by 11,470 participants (66.4%), as well as **parks, sports facilities, and arts and cultural programmes** (45.4%) and **drug rehabilitation services** (43.0%).

Taken together, these results show that participants placed strong emphasis on investments that could expand opportunity, strengthen communities and address social and economic challenges. Education and skills development, employment and small business support, housing and infrastructure, and support for women affected by gender-based violence all ranked substantially higher than infrastructure specifically intended to address safety along the N2 corridor.

The **proposed N2 Wall was selected by 413 participants (2.4%)**, making it the least selected of the predefined investment options. By comparison, an **N2 bridge or alternative safety infrastructure** was selected by 2,101 participants (12.2%), more than five times as many participants as the proposed wall.

The results therefore show a clear distinction between the desire for safer communities and support for the proposed wall itself. Participants identified a range of priorities they believed could contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities, while relatively few selected the wall as a preferred use of the R115 million.

Other Responses

In addition to the predefined investment priorities, participants were given the opportunity to select **"Other"** and suggest an investment priority of their own. A total of **444 participants (2.6%)** selected this option.

The responses provided an opportunity for participants to raise needs and ideas that were not fully captured by the predefined list. While some responses reinforced priorities already included in the questionnaire, others introduced additional areas of concern, including **healthcare, food security, policing and public safety, environmental protection, water and sanitation, support for people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ support and protection.**

Several participants used the opportunity to expand on existing priorities. For example, responses relating to healthcare included suggestions for **better community healthcare clinics, hospitals and broader healthcare support**. One participant wrote:

"Better medical care that is easily accessible (travelling clinics, sex and drug education, preventative care etc.)"

Others called for **affordable housing, support for people experiencing homelessness, improved township infrastructure, and greater investment in universities and tertiary education**.

Food security and basic needs also emerged in a number of responses. Participants referred to **food programmes, support for people experiencing hunger, sustainable food forests, water and electricity, and sanitation projects**. These responses highlighted the importance some participants placed on addressing immediate living conditions alongside longer-term community development.

Safety remained another recurring concern, although participants did not always identify the proposed wall as the preferred response. Some suggested **greater investment in policing and crime prevention**, while others called for alternative approaches to improving safety along the N2 corridor. One participant wrote:

"Safety along the N2 is absolutely a concern. If 'public safety' is truly the priority of the CoCT, then use that budget for greater policing along that route – a sustainable and people-centered approach."

Environmental concerns also appeared in the responses, including **nature conservation, climate change education, regenerative agriculture and sustainable food production**. One participant wrote:

"Nature Conservation - it all starts here. The way we treat our nature is the way we mirror each other in the world."

Other participants raised issues relating to **social development, support for elderly people, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ communities and other vulnerable groups**.

Some participants did not identify a specific alternative investment, but instead expressed a general view that the funds should be directed towards community needs rather than the proposed wall. Responses included suggestions such as **"anything other than the wall"** and calls to invest in services that would have a more direct benefit for communities.

Because these responses were submitted as free text rather than through predefined categories, the themes above should be understood as **qualitative patterns within the "Other" responses rather than additional survey categories**. They are therefore not added to the percentages in the main investment-priority ranking.

Taken together, the “Other” responses broaden the picture provided by the main results. They show that participants raised a wide range of needs when given the opportunity to suggest priorities in their own words—from healthcare and food security to policing, environmental protection, basic services and support for vulnerable communities. They also demonstrate that participants were not limited to choosing between the options presented to them; many used the opportunity to introduce their own ideas about how public investment could contribute to stronger communities.

Messages to Decision-Makers

These written responses gave participants an opportunity to move beyond the predefined choices in the consultation and explain, in their own words, what they wanted decision-makers to understand about the proposed expenditure.

The responses covered a wide range of concerns, priorities and ideas. While many focused directly on the proposed N2 Wall, others spoke more broadly about **poverty, inequality, education, employment, community development, safety, public services and how public funds should be used.**

These responses are particularly valuable because they provide context for the quantitative findings presented earlier in the report. The multiple-choice questions show what participants selected when given specific options; the written responses provide greater insight into the **reasoning, concerns and aspirations behind those choices.**

The Proposed N2 Wall: Safety, Poverty and Alternative Approaches

A substantial proportion of the written responses focused directly on the proposed N2 Wall. Many participants questioned whether a wall would address the problems it was intended to solve, particularly crime and poverty. Others argued that the proposed expenditure should instead be directed towards addressing the underlying conditions that contribute to insecurity.

Some participants expressed this view directly, connecting the proposed wall to poverty, drugs, education and rehabilitation:

“I say NO to the Apartheid N2 wall!! Spend the money on fixing the root causes (poverty and drugs) which lead people to crime. Spend the money on education and rehabilitation.”

This perspective appeared repeatedly throughout the responses. Participants often connected safety to the broader conditions in which people live, including **poverty, inequality, unemployment and limited opportunity**. Rather than seeing safety solely as a question of physical infrastructure, many described it as connected to access to education, employment, housing, services and meaningful opportunities to build better lives.

The distinction was particularly clear in responses questioning whether a physical barrier could address the causes of crime:

"A wall will not stop crime. This is not a solution."

Another participant expressed a similar concern:

"The wall will not prevent the crime."

Some participants went further, connecting crime to poverty and desperation and arguing that investment in communities would be a more effective response:

"Crime only exist because of poverty and desperation. No amount of walls will fix crime, only investment in the community."

For another participant, the concern was not only whether the wall would reduce crime, but whether it could deepen existing divisions:

"A wall won't solve the crime issue, a wall only divides us further as a nation creating more anger, more animosity which will inevitably lead to more crime."

Others emphasised investment in people and communities as a longer-term approach to addressing insecurity:

"Invest in people and communities. Poverty perpetuates crime. A wall will not fix it long term!"

Another participant described the proposed wall as addressing the visible effects of crime rather than the conditions they believed contributed to it:

"The high level of crime in the Cape flats are a result of poverty. To put a wall up is just covering up the problem instead of resolving the factors causing the problem."

Taken together, these responses suggest that many participants did not see the proposed wall simply as an infrastructure project. They questioned whether it addressed the underlying conditions contributing to insecurity. For these participants, creating safer communities meant addressing **poverty and inequality while expanding access to education, employment, rehabilitation, housing, services and other opportunities.**

This perspective provides important context for the investment priorities identified earlier in the consultation. **Education, youth and skill development, job creation and/or small business support, and housing and infrastructure** were among the most frequently selected priorities when participants were asked how approximately R115 million could best be invested.

The written responses therefore reinforce a broader theme running through the consultation: **community safety and community development were not viewed as separate issues.** For many participants, investing in the conditions that enable people and communities to flourish was itself part of creating safer communities.

Safety remained an important concern throughout the responses. Participants described crime and insecurity as serious problems and expressed a desire for communities and the N2 corridor to become safer. However, many questioned whether the proposed wall was the most effective way to achieve that. Instead, they proposed approaches including greater investment in communities, crime prevention, policing and opportunities for people affected by poverty and unemployment.

This distinction is important. **Concern about safety did not necessarily translate into support for the proposed wall.** Participants could regard safety as an urgent priority while simultaneously believing that different approaches would be more effective.

Not all participants opposed the proposed N2 Wall. Some supported the proposal or regarded greater physical security along the N2 corridor as important. **These perspectives form part of the consultation record and are included to reflect the range of views expressed by participants.**

One participant expressed strong support for the proposal, drawing on a recent personal experience of being attacked:

"Build the N2 wall. As someone who were attacked a few months ago I fully support this proposal. And I am aware of more people who were attacked recently, friends, coworkers and such. The situation is getting worse."

Another participant supported the wall specifically as a measure to protect motorists travelling along the N2:

"I do support the wall as a safety measure because vehicles are constantly targeted."

These responses highlight that, for some participants, support for the proposal was rooted in direct experiences or concerns about safety along the N2 corridor.

At the same time, the overall pattern of written responses showed substantial interest in alternatives to the proposed wall and in addressing the broader conditions affecting community safety. This is consistent with the quantitative findings. While only **413 participants (2.4%)** selected the proposed N2 Wall as a preferred investment priority, **2,101 participants (12.2%)** selected an N2 bridge or alternative safety infrastructure.

Among the alternatives raised by participants, education emerged as one of the clearest and most consistent priorities. For many, investment in education was not simply about improving academic outcomes. It was seen as a way of expanding opportunity, developing skills, supporting young people and creating pathways towards employment and greater economic independence.

Education, Youth and Skills Development

Education was one of the strongest themes running through the messages to decision-makers. Participants called for greater investment in schools, tertiary education, skills development and opportunities for young people. Many saw education as an investment that could address some of the underlying conditions they associated with **poverty, unemployment and crime**.

This closely reflects the quantitative findings. **Education, youth and skill development was the most frequently selected investment priority, identified by 14,471 participants (83.8%).**

The written responses provide more insight into why education was prioritised. Participants spoke not only about access to education, but about the opportunities it could create—particularly for young people seeking **skills, employment and greater economic independence**.

Their suggestions ranged from improving schools and teaching capacity to expanding access to tertiary education and developing practical skills.

One participant emphasised the need to expand educational infrastructure while creating pathways into employment:

"They must use that money to increase the education budget to build more schools and universities to train and accommodate people so that they can obtain the skills to employ or be employed when either starting a business or applying for a position."

For another participant, the priority was ensuring that students could access tertiary education without being excluded by financial constraints:

"NSFAS!!!! In fact, all public tertiary institutions should given funds so that all students are able to study and not be financially excluded as a result of not having funds !!!!"

Some participants focused on the resources available to learners and the financial barriers faced by families:

"The money that is used to build the N2 wall could be used for better schooling equipment and to assist those who cannot afford fees."

Another participant connected investment in education directly to future employment and life opportunities:

"Stop waisting our money on shit and rather spend it on helping to improve our educational systems. Build more schools so our students can get the education they need. Better education leads to better jobs and better life choices."

Others highlighted the importance of investing in teachers and foundational learning, particularly at primary school level:

"This is the type of money we need to invest in our kids, i.e. education department. Schools need more qualified teachers, so make posts available. Schools need support (especially primary school) in improving literacy and numeracy rates and skills."

For another participant, the concern was the limited availability of opportunities for students who had successfully completed school but could not access tertiary education:

"That 115 million rand budged to build a wall does not benefit Cape Town, instead it's to hide the poverty side of it. That 115 could be used to invest in education where more universities are built as there is a large percentage of students who have matriculated, who have passed matric well yet have no tertiary education opportunities due to the lack of space in universities."

Across these responses, participants raised different aspects of education—from **school quality and teacher capacity to literacy and numeracy, tertiary access, financial support and practical skills**. Together, they show that participants were thinking about education not simply as an investment in learning, but as a pathway to greater opportunity.

Several participants also made a direct connection between education and employment. One participant captured this simply:

"Better education leads to better jobs and better life choices."

This connection leads directly into another strong theme in the messages to decision-makers: **jobs and economic opportunity.**

For many participants, education was not an end in itself. It was part of a broader pathway towards **skills, employment and economic independence.** The responses therefore moved naturally from education and young people to concerns about unemployment, job opportunities and the ability to build sustainable livelihoods.

Several participants also highlighted the gap between completing school and finding employment. Their messages suggested that even when young people successfully complete their education, they can still face limited opportunities to enter the workforce or build sustainable livelihoods.

Jobs and Economic Opportunity

The connection between education and employment appeared repeatedly in the messages to decision-makers. Participants spoke not only about helping young people access education and develop skills, but also about what opportunities would be available to them afterwards. For many, education was a pathway to employment, while the lack of jobs and economic opportunity remained a major barrier to building more secure futures.

This was strongly reflected in the quantitative findings. **Job creation initiatives and/or small business support was the second most frequently selected investment priority, identified by 13,614 participants (78.9%).**

The written responses provide more insight into what participants meant by investment in jobs and economic opportunity. They called for **job creation, support for small businesses, entrepreneurship, skills development and opportunities for people to become economically independent.** Some focused specifically on young people, while others spoke more broadly about unemployment and the need for sustainable livelihoods.

One participant wrote:

"Instead of building a wall to hide the issues, address and take initiatives to solve the issues. Use the money towards uplifting the cape flats community and education. Building a wall will not solve the vicious circle of crime and poverty, you know that very well, perhaps you should also care. You have been elected to serve the people, all of

them even those in the cape flats, not turn a blind eye. Do your job don't waste taxpayers money."

Another participant made a direct connection between infrastructure, employment and community safety:

"That money should be used to improve the infrastructure of the cape flats and the townships and to create jobs for the unemployed in those areas to fulfil their constitutional rights. If this is done, it would drastically decrease crime (because people will actually be happy with their lives and feel like they have a purpose) which is what is being used as the so-called justification for the wall."

For some participants, the priority was expressed simply:

"Job creation initiatives and skills development"

Others questioned the proposed wall more directly, asking what it would contribute to employment and the broader economy:

"How does the wall enhance or create jobs, help , failing health system, failing education system, economy that is inclusive of all and not only the rich?"

Taken together, these responses show that participants often viewed employment as more than an economic issue. **Work was connected to purpose, dignity, independence and the ability to participate meaningfully in society.** For some, creating jobs was also part of addressing the poverty and insecurity they believed contributed to crime.

The responses also reveal a broader expectation that significant public investment should create tangible opportunities for communities. Rather than simply asking whether the R115 million would make the N2 safer, participants asked what else that investment could achieve: **Could it create jobs? Could it support local businesses? Could it improve infrastructure? Could it help people build sustainable livelihoods?**

This connects closely with the pattern identified across the consultation. **Education, youth and skill development was the highest-ranked investment priority, while job creation initiatives and/or small business support ranked second.** The written responses suggest that participants saw these priorities as closely connected: education and skills can create pathways to opportunity, while employment and entrepreneurship can turn those skills into sustainable livelihoods.

For many participants, economic opportunity was therefore not separate from the goal of building safer communities. **It was part of it.** Their messages suggest that communities where

people have access to education, skills, employment and the ability to earn a living have greater opportunity to become **safer, more prosperous and able to flourish**.

Housing and Infrastructure

Housing and infrastructure were another major priority in the messages to decision-makers. Participants raised concerns about the conditions in which people live and called for greater investment in **affordable housing, township infrastructure and basic services**.

This was strongly reflected in the quantitative findings. **Housing and infrastructure was selected by 12,400 participants (71.8%), making it the third-highest investment priority.**

The written responses provide more insight into what participants meant by this priority. Some called for **affordable and sustainable housing**, while others focused on infrastructure, sanitation, clean water, roads and improvements to townships and poorer communities. For many, these were not simply infrastructure needs, but issues connected to **dignity, safety and the ability to live a secure and meaningful life**.

One participant wrote:

"Use our Tax money for the much needed infrastructures in Cape Town. People need affordable homes that are durable and reliable. A wall is the last of our problems. We need proper sewage systems in rural areas and clean running water."

Another wrote:

"Prioritise human lives over concrete walls. Spending R115 million on a highway barrier while thousands of families in our poorest communities lack basic sanitation, safe housing, and food security is a misuse of public funds. True safety comes from lifting people out of poverty, not from building walls to hide them."

Other participants focused specifically on housing:

"Please spend this on more affordable housing for the underprivileged. Or assist with drug rehabilitation centres."

"Build more houses and create more jobs so that the country can develop."

"Build proper houses for South Africans, get rid of shacks."

Some connected housing directly with infrastructure and economic development:

"Housing and infrastructure, job creation and small business support especially local businesses."

The responses also highlighted the relationship between **housing, basic services and quality of life**. Participants referred to water, sanitation, electricity, roads and township infrastructure, suggesting that investment in communities was not simply about constructing new buildings, but about improving the conditions in which people live every day.

One participant wrote:

"Spend it on public housing and infrastructure repairs instead. Why does this useless wall get 115 Million and the proposed expansion of homeless shelters only 100 million. The wall is not a solution, it is a way to hide from failure."

Taken together, these messages suggest that participants often understood housing and infrastructure as fundamental to creating communities where people can live with **dignity, safety and opportunity**. For some, investment in these areas was also part of addressing the poverty and inequality they believed contributed to insecurity.

This connects closely with the priorities identified elsewhere in the consultation. **Housing and infrastructure ranked third overall, selected by 12,400 participants (71.8%), while job creation initiatives and/or small business support ranked second, selected by 13,614 participants (78.9%)**. The written responses suggest that participants often saw these priorities as interconnected: better housing and infrastructure can improve living conditions, while employment and economic opportunity can help people build more secure futures.

The messages therefore add another dimension to the consultation's broader understanding of community safety. **For many participants, safety was not only about preventing crime. It was also about creating places where people have safe homes, functioning services, economic opportunity and the conditions needed to build a better life.**

Women, Gender-Based Violence and Support Services

Support for women and responses to gender-based violence emerged as another significant priority in the consultation. Participants were asked how approximately **R115 million** could be invested to contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities, and **11,470 participants (66.4%)** selected women's shelters and GBV support.

The written messages add context to this finding. Participants raised concerns about the safety of women and children, gender-based violence, domestic violence and the need for greater support for people experiencing violence or living in unsafe circumstances.

For many, creating safer communities meant investing in **places of safety, support services, prevention, education and practical assistance for people experiencing violence**. These responses suggest that safety was understood not only as protection from crime in public spaces, but also as protection from violence within homes and communities.

Participants wrote:

"Uplift impoverished communities, not build walls to segregate the poor from the rest of the city. Empower those who have no jobs or education. Create rehab & recreational centres for women & children so they don't end up on the streets. Invest in SA citizens so we may flourish together."

Another participant specifically called for shelters and support for victims of domestic violence and GBV:

"We don't need the wall. This money could be allocated to improve education and health infrastructures in our communities because they are already in bad shape. And building shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, GBV against women and children was declared a national disaster so we definitely do need shelters for victims and proper support channels."

Other participants compared incidents along the N2 corridor with the violence experienced within the Cape Flats:

"Incidents on the N1 highway (Cape Flats area) is very low when compared to gang violence, GBV, domestic violence etc. if you want to make sure people are 'safe' start actually caring about people and doing something that helps !!!"

The messages also reflected frustration that gender-based violence and femicide remained serious concerns despite sustained public calls for greater action:

"It's quite disheartening that so much money is available however it's not allocated to causes that desperately need it. We have been fighting for gender based violence and femicide to be declared a national disaster however our cries are not heard. A wall to separate the glamorous Cape Town with digital nomads that drive away the original inhabitants to live in impoverished areas and subject them to a poor standard of living is more important than any other cause that plagues this country."

Taken together, these messages show that participants understood safety in broader terms than physical security along a particular road. **For many, safety also meant being protected**

from violence at home and in the community, having somewhere safe to go, and having access to the support needed to recover and rebuild.

This adds another dimension to the consultation's broader discussion of safety. Participants were not simply identifying crime as a problem; they were identifying **different forms of insecurity and different ways public investment could respond to them.**

The quantitative findings reinforce the significance of this concern. **Women's shelters and GBV support was selected by 11,470 participants (66.4%), making it one of the highest-ranked investment priorities.** This was substantially higher than the **413 participants (2.4%)** who selected the proposed N2 Wall.

The messages therefore suggest that, for many participants, building safer communities involved more than physical barriers or infrastructure. It involved **protecting people from violence, supporting those already experiencing harm, and investing in the services and opportunities that enable people to live with greater safety and dignity.**

Healthcare and Community Wellbeing

Healthcare and access to health services emerged as another important theme in the written messages to decision-makers. Participants raised concerns about the accessibility and quality of healthcare in their communities, with some questioning whether public funds could make a greater difference by strengthening health services rather than being allocated to the proposed N2 Wall.

The responses included calls for **better healthcare infrastructure, improved access to clinics and hospitals, preventative healthcare and greater support for communities with limited access to health services.**

Healthcare was also raised spontaneously in the **"Other" responses**, where participants could suggest priorities not included in the predefined investment options. These included **better community healthcare clinics, hospitals and broader healthcare support.** One participant wrote:

"Better medical care that is easily accessible (travelling clinics, sex and drug education, preventative care etc.)"

The messages also reflected concern about the state of healthcare services and the need to direct public investment towards areas participants believed were already under pressure. One participant wrote:

"We don't need the wall. This money could be allocated to improve education and health infrastructures in our communities because they are already in bad shape."

Another participant highlighted healthcare alongside other community needs, including housing, education and recreational facilities:

"We have kids dying in the Cape flats everyday , building a wall to protect people driving in cars for 5 minutes across the road is not worth the hundreds of lives we could save if its invested into our communities, our people and our infrastructure. How many lives could we save? How many houses could be built ? How many sports fields and courts could be built and renovated? How many day hospitals could use a makeover ? How many schools could use working environments? Its not worth it !"

For another participant, the concern centred specifically on funding for public hospitals:

"It's amazing how much money we have as a country but public hospitals are highly underfunded"

Another participant linked healthcare concerns with broader economic and housing challenges:

"People don't have jobs and houses even the hospitals need to be fixed , invest on something important then a wall , come on"

Other participants connected healthcare to the broader conditions in which people live, mentioning it alongside **education, housing, employment and basic services**. This reflects a broader understanding that these issues are interconnected.

Participants were therefore not necessarily describing healthcare as separate from community safety or economic opportunity. Rather, access to healthcare was part of the foundation they believed people need to live **healthy, secure and productive lives**.

The responses also highlight the importance of **accessible and preventative care**. Rather than focusing only on treatment after people become seriously ill, some participants called for services that could reach people within their communities and address health concerns earlier.

Taken together, the healthcare responses add another dimension to the picture emerging from the consultation. Participants identified a range of areas where they believed public investment could have a direct and lasting effect on people's lives. **For those who raised healthcare, building stronger communities included ensuring that people could access the health services and support they need.**

Food Security and Basic Needs

Food security and access to basic necessities emerged as another important theme in the messages to decision-makers. Participants spoke about **hunger, the rising cost of living,**

access to food, water, electricity and sanitation, and the difficulties faced by families struggling to meet their most basic needs.

Unlike education, employment and housing, food security was not one of the predefined investment categories in the questionnaire. It emerged through the written responses, giving participants an opportunity to describe in their own words the needs they believed should be prioritised.

Several participants spoke directly about hunger and the difficulty of meeting everyday living costs. One participant wrote:

"Our people are standing in SASSA queues for food, teaching 60 kids in one classroom, waiting 8 hours at clinics, and praying the taps run today. We don't need another barrier made of concrete. The real walls we face are hunger, unemployment, and broken services. Use our tax money to tear those walls down, not to build new ones."

Others connected food insecurity to the broader conditions affecting people's lives:

"There are families struggling to make ends meet. There are families unsure of where their next meal will come from. Instead of investing so much money into a wall that would create further separation, let's invest in food security."

Some participants suggested that investment in food production could help communities become more self-sufficient:

"If you want to tackle crime, address the root cause. Free housing and free food for the poor. City-owned sorghum and cowpea (indigenous plants) farms can reduce food insecurity."

Another suggested:

"Use it to build farms so people can grow their own food and survive."

These responses show that food security was understood not only as providing food to people in need, but also as creating opportunities for communities to **grow food, develop skills and become more self-sufficient**.

Basic services were another recurring concern. Participants referred to **water, sanitation and electricity** as essential needs already placing pressure on communities. One participant wrote:

"Give the people basic needs water, sanitation and electricity."

Another wrote:

"Our country is lacking in basic needs water, sanitation yet money is being wasted on unnecessary projects. Water is a need and most of our country water structures are failing."

Others described the everyday choices people are forced to make when basic services become unaffordable:

"Live on the cape flats for one day and you will see that most people now have to decide on whether to have electricity or eat on any given day"

These messages are an important reminder that community wellbeing is not only about large infrastructure projects. For some participants, the most urgent improvements were much more immediate: **having enough food to eat, access to clean water and sanitation, reliable electricity, and services that allow families to live with dignity.**

Food security and basic services were also connected to other priorities identified throughout the consultation. Participants linked hunger with **unemployment, education, housing and crime**, suggesting that these issues cannot always be separated. One participant wrote:

"Crime, a product of poverty, reduces when money is directed towards educating, uplifting, housing, and feeding the poor - providing them with opportunities and necessities that uplift them from their current dire circumstances."

This reflects a broader theme running through the written responses: **participants often saw the conditions in which people live as closely connected to the safety and wellbeing of their communities.** Hunger, unemployment, inadequate housing and failing basic services were not necessarily seen as separate problems, but as interconnected challenges that can reinforce one another.

Taken together, the responses on food security and basic needs broaden the meaning of what participants believed it takes to create safer and more prosperous communities. For many, flourishing begins with ensuring that people have the foundations they need to live: **food, water, electricity, sanitation, shelter and the opportunity to build a more secure future.**

Environment, Public Spaces and Sustainable Communities

Environmental concerns and the quality of public spaces emerged as another theme in the messages to decision-makers. Participants raised issues ranging from **parks and recreational spaces to pollution, waste, water, sanitation and the condition of neighbourhoods.** Others

spoke more broadly about nature conservation, sustainable development and the importance of creating healthier environments for people and communities.

For some participants, improving the environment meant investing in the places where people live every day. They called for **cleaner communities, maintained parks, better public spaces, improved infrastructure and services, and environments where children and families could spend time safely.**

One participant wrote:

"Invest in crime prevention and providing proper services to the cape flats areas like mitchells plain, ie building better roads and highways... Build more clinics, more cop shops... Build out reach programs for the youth. More access to drug rehab facilities. More visible policing. Fix the street lights, fix the parks. Employ more people to keep mitchells plain clean."

This response illustrates how participants often connected environmental conditions with broader questions of safety and community wellbeing. **Parks, street lighting, cleanliness, infrastructure and public services were not necessarily seen as separate issues, but as part of the environments in which communities live.**

Other participants expressed frustration about the condition of the Cape Flats and questioned why public investment was not being directed towards improving those environments.

One participant wrote:

"they are unfair to build a wall while cape flats are struggling with pollution in every corner"

Another wrote:

"There are people there that still suffer from unhealthy environment, drains and houses that flood during winter. There are many young people unemployed kids without uniforms and hospitals that still have service shortages."

Participants also highlighted the importance of parks, recreation and spaces where young people could spend time positively. One participant wrote:

"Crime prevention, recreational activities such as maintaining parks, libraries & extracurricular activities for children to have an outlet and be discouraged from using drugs."

Another suggested:

"Build parks and other recreational facilities, fix schools as there are so many schools without proper resources or even adequate space."

These responses suggest that **public spaces were sometimes understood as part of crime prevention and community development**. Well-maintained parks, recreational facilities and places for young people to gather were seen by some participants as opportunities to create healthier environments and provide alternatives to crime, substance abuse and social isolation.

Environmental concerns also extended beyond the immediate neighbourhood. Some participants raised **nature conservation, sustainable development and the protection of natural resources**. One participant wrote:

"Construct the wall and invest in Western Nature Conservation"

Another referred specifically to environmental sustainability when describing where public investment should be directed:

"Opposed to job creation, skills development, educational improvement and environmental sustainability and upliftment the DA views it better to build a wall to hide their own failures in the cape flats utilising the same disillusioned citizens tax rands."

Water and sanitation were another important part of this broader theme. Participants referred to **water infrastructure, sanitation, wastewater management and the condition of public services**, connecting these issues to both environmental health and everyday quality of life.

One participant wrote:

"Give the people basic needs water, sanitation and electricity."

Another called specifically for:

"better wastewater management. To keep our beaches safe and clean to use."

These responses demonstrate that environmental wellbeing was not always understood as a distant or abstract concern. For many participants, it was about **whether the places they live are clean, healthy, functional and safe**.

This connects with the earlier findings on food security, housing and infrastructure. **Clean water, sanitation, functioning drainage, maintained public spaces and healthy environments are part of the basic conditions that allow communities to flourish**.

Taken together, the environmental and public-space responses broaden the understanding of what participants believed community investment could achieve. **For some participants, creating safer and more prosperous communities also meant improving the environments in which people live—maintaining parks, addressing pollution and waste, improving public services, protecting natural areas and creating healthier places for people to live, work and raise their families.**

Voices from the Consultation

Across the messages submitted to decision-makers, participants expressed a wide range of concerns, priorities and aspirations. While the thematic analysis above groups these responses into recurring areas, many individual messages spoke to something broader: a desire to be heard, to have public resources used meaningfully, and to see investment contribute to the lives and futures of ordinary South Africans.

The following messages are included not because they represent a particular statistical category, but because they capture some of the broader sentiments expressed throughout the consultation.

“Use the money to uplift these people instead of building a wall. There are better solutions other than the wall, such as proper housing and infrastructure, education, social work and job creation.”

“Every rand in this R115 million budget represents the trust of the people you serve. Spend it where it creates the greatest long-term impact—not where it creates the biggest headlines. Prioritize transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes. Invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure, job creation, and public safety in ways that improve people’s daily lives. Success shouldn’t be measured by how much money is spent, but by how many lives are genuinely improved. Lead with integrity, because the choices you make today will shape communities for years to come.”

“R115 million should be invested in projects that directly improve people’s lives—better housing, schools, healthcare, public transport, job creation, and safer communities. Spending that money on a wall sends the wrong message. Rather than funding infrastructure that many see as excluding and dividing communities, invest in solutions that bring people together, expand opportunities, and address the root causes of inequality and crime. Public money should build stronger communities, not bigger barriers.”

“Build homes for the homeless, provide food for those who are hungry, education and easy healthcare access”

One participant offered a broader reflection on the responsibility attached to public investment:

If I could send one message to decision-makers about the R115 million budget, it would be this:

Please ensure every rand is spent where it will make the greatest difference. South Africans need to see real improvements in healthcare, education, infrastructure, job creation, and public safety, not just promises. Prioritise transparency, accountability, and long-term investments that improve people's quality of life. Public money belongs to the people, and every decision should reflect that responsibility.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed R115 million budget allocation intended for physical barriers that separate our communities.

Budgetary decisions are not merely financial calculations—they are moral choices that reflect whose safety, dignity, and rights take priority. Spending public funds on infrastructure that restricts movement and divides people undermines our constitutional values of equality, freedom of movement, and social integration.

Rather than addressing the root causes of our security and socio-economic challenges, this approach deepens systemic divides and shifts problems onto surrounding neighborhoods. Security is built through social stability, economic inclusion, and equal infrastructure—not concrete walls.

I urge you to reconsider this allocation and redirect these funds toward sustainable solutions: community-led safety programs, public lighting, youth development, and inclusive local infrastructure that unite and protect all residents equally.

Taken together, these messages illustrate the breadth of expectations participants placed on the proposed R115 million investment. Their responses were not limited to a single alternative to the N2 Wall. Instead, they described a vision of investment that reaches across **education, employment, housing, healthcare, food security, infrastructure, public safety and community development**.

What connects many of these messages is the belief that public investment should produce tangible improvements in people's lives. Participants repeatedly called for resources to be directed towards opportunities, services and conditions that could enable people and communities to become safer, more secure and more prosperous.

The messages also reflect a strong expectation of **responsibility and accountability** in the use of public funds. For many participants, the question was not simply what could be built with R115 million, but what that investment could achieve for people.

In this sense, the written responses provide an important complement to the quantitative findings presented earlier in the report. The investment priorities show **what** participants selected; their messages to decision-makers provide greater insight into **why** those priorities mattered to them.

OVERALL FINDINGS

The consultation combined quantitative responses with more than **12,900 written messages to decision-makers**, allowing participants' priorities to be considered alongside the reasons, concerns and aspirations they expressed in their own words.

Taken together, the findings show a strong degree of consistency across the different questions. The quantitative results identify the priorities participants selected most frequently, while the written responses provide context for those choices and help explain what participants believed those investments could achieve.

The questionnaire asked participants about the proposed N2 Wall, how approximately **R115 million** could best be invested, and their views directly to decision-makers. Considered together, these responses provide a more complete picture than any individual question could provide on its own.

Investment Priorities and the Written Messages

The strongest quantitative priorities were **education, youth and skill development (83.8%), job creation initiatives and/or small business support (78.9%), and housing and infrastructure (71.8%)**.

These results were strongly reflected in the written messages. Participants repeatedly called for better schools, tertiary education, skills development, employment opportunities, housing and infrastructure. The written responses therefore provide greater insight into why these priorities were selected so frequently and what participants hoped such investment could achieve.

The same pattern appeared across other areas. **Women's shelters and GBV support**, selected by **66.4%** of participants, was reinforced by messages calling for places of safety and greater support for women and children experiencing violence. Healthcare, food security, environmental conditions, parks, sanitation and other community needs also appeared in the written responses, including through the **"Other"** option.

Together, these findings indicate that participants placed considerable emphasis on investments that could expand opportunity, strengthen communities and improve the conditions in which people live.

Safety and the Proposed N2 Wall

The relationship between the safety findings and the proposed wall is particularly significant.

Participants were not indifferent to safety. The written messages contain extensive concern about crime, insecurity and violence, while the investment-priority question included several options relating to safety and community security.

Yet the **proposed N2 Wall was selected by only 413 participants (2.4%)**. By comparison, **2,101 participants (12.2%)** selected an **N2 bridge or alternative safety infrastructure**.

The written responses reinforce this distinction. Many participants described safety as an urgent concern while questioning whether the proposed wall was the most effective way to achieve it. Instead, they referred to policing, crime prevention, education, employment, rehabilitation, public services and investment in communities.

This means the findings should not be interpreted as showing a lack of concern about safety. Rather, they suggest that **participants' desire for safer communities was considerably broader than their support for the proposed wall as a particular intervention**.

What the Written Responses Add

The quantitative findings tell us **what participants prioritised**. The written messages help us understand **why**.

For example, participants who selected education as a priority spoke in their messages about schools, teachers, tertiary education, financial exclusion, skills development and opportunities for young people.

Similarly, participants who prioritised job creation and small business support connected employment with economic independence, purpose, dignity and the ability to build more secure futures. Housing and infrastructure were also frequently discussed in relation to living conditions, safety and community wellbeing.

The written responses also revealed priorities that could not be fully captured through the predefined options. The **444 "Other" responses (2.6%)** included healthcare, food security, environmental protection, water and sanitation, support for people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ support and other community concerns.

The qualitative responses therefore add an important human dimension to the quantitative findings. They show not only which priorities participants selected, but how they understood the challenges facing their communities and what they believed could make a meaningful difference.

A Consistent Picture Across the Consultation

When the different questions and responses are considered together, a consistent picture emerges.

Participants expressed concern about safety, but many did not believe that physical separation alone would address the causes of insecurity. They identified investment in **people, opportunity, services and the conditions in which communities live** as important components of creating safer and more prosperous places.

The quantitative and qualitative findings therefore reinforce one another. The ranking of investment priorities identifies where participants wanted resources directed; the written messages provide insight into the experiences and reasoning behind those choices; and the responses concerning the N2 Wall provide context for how participants viewed one particular proposed use of public funds.

Across the consultation, participants repeatedly returned to the idea that public investment should produce tangible and lasting benefits for people and communities. Education, employment, housing, healthcare, public safety, environmental conditions, food security, public spaces and basic services were often discussed not as isolated issues, but as interconnected parts of community wellbeing.

Taken together, the findings suggest that participants were asking not only how to make the N2 corridor safer, but **how approximately R115 million could make the greatest positive difference to people's lives and to the communities in which they live.**

The Central Finding

The consultation found a strong desire for **safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities**, alongside a clear preference for investment in education, employment, housing, infrastructure and other conditions that participants believed could improve people's lives.

The proposed N2 Wall represented one possible response to concerns about safety, but it was selected by relatively few participants compared with the broader range of priorities identified across the consultation. The written responses further showed that many participants understood safety as connected to wider social and economic conditions, including poverty, unemployment, education, housing, healthcare, public services and opportunity.

Taken together, the quantitative and qualitative findings provide a record of what participants prioritised and the experiences, concerns and aspirations they expressed. The report does not

prescribe a particular policy outcome; rather, it presents this evidence for consideration alongside the technical, financial and policy evidence available to decision-makers.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this consultation provide more than a measure of participants' views on the proposed N2 Wall. Taken together, they offer insight into how participants understand safety, community development and the use of significant public resources. The responses suggest that, for many participants, these issues are closely connected. Safety was important, but so too were the social, economic and environmental conditions that shape people's everyday lives.

Public investment was understood as an opportunity to strengthen communities

One of the clearest patterns across the consultation was the strong support for investment in education, youth and skills development, job creation and/or small business support, and housing and infrastructure. These were among the most frequently selected priorities and were repeatedly reinforced in the written messages to decision-makers.

The consistency between the quantitative and written responses is notable. Participants were not simply identifying individual services they would like to see improved. Many were describing the conditions they believed people need in order to build secure and meaningful lives: education that creates opportunity, employment that provides income and purpose, housing and infrastructure that support dignity, and communities where people have access to essential services.

The written responses added depth to these findings. Participants connected education with skills and future employment, employment with economic independence and dignity, and housing and infrastructure with safety and quality of life. In this sense, the consultation indicates that many participants viewed public investment as an opportunity not only to address immediate needs, but also to strengthen the foundations on which communities can flourish.

Safety was viewed as broader than physical security

The consultation also revealed an important distinction between **the desire for safety and support for a particular safety intervention**.

Participants expressed concern about crime and insecurity, including along the N2 corridor. However, the proposed N2 Wall was selected as a preferred investment by only **413 participants (2.4%)**, while **2,101 participants (12.2%)** selected an N2 bridge or alternative safety infrastructure.

The written responses provide further context. Many participants questioned whether a physical barrier would address the conditions they associated with insecurity. They referred instead to policing, crime prevention, education, employment, rehabilitation, housing, public services and investment in communities.

This does not mean that participants regarded safety as unimportant. Rather, the responses indicate that many participants understood safety as a broader goal that could be pursued through a range of interventions. The distinction matters because it demonstrates that **concern about crime should not automatically be interpreted as support for every proposed response to crime.**

Participants frequently connected safety with opportunity

A recurring idea throughout the written responses was that safety cannot always be separated from the circumstances in which people live.

Participants referred to poverty, inequality, unemployment, lack of opportunity, education, housing and substance abuse when discussing insecurity. For some, addressing these conditions was itself part of creating safer communities.

This perspective is reflected in the investment priorities. Education and skills, job creation and small business support, and housing and infrastructure were among the strongest priorities identified by participants. Women's shelters and GBV support also received substantial support, while healthcare, food security, environmental conditions and public spaces emerged through the written responses and the **"Other"** option.

Taken together, these responses indicate a broader understanding of community safety: one that includes not only protection from crime, but also the conditions that enable people to live with greater stability, dignity and opportunity.

Public participation revealed priorities that predefined options could not fully capture

The consultation also demonstrated the value of allowing participants to express priorities in their own words.

The **444 "Other" responses (2.6%)** included issues such as healthcare, food security, environmental protection, water and sanitation, support for people with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ support and protection. Some of these concerns reinforced priorities already included in the questionnaire, while others introduced issues that participants might otherwise have had no way to record.

The written messages to decision-makers served a similar function. Participants were able to move beyond selecting an option and explain their experiences, concerns and aspirations in their own words.

This is important because predefined categories can help produce clear quantitative results, but they cannot capture every issue that matters to participants. The combination of structured questions and open-ended responses therefore provided a broader picture than either approach could have produced on its own.

The consultation highlights the value of listening to lived experience

A central purpose of the consultation was to create an opportunity for people to contribute their perspectives to a discussion about significant public investment. The responses demonstrate why that opportunity can be valuable.

People who live in communities, travel through them, work in them or otherwise experience the consequences of public decisions possess knowledge about those places that may not be visible in budgets, technical assessments or policy documents. Their responses reflected not only opinions about the proposed wall, but experiences of education, unemployment, housing, healthcare, violence, public spaces, environmental conditions and everyday life.

This does not mean that lived experience is the only form of evidence that should inform public decision-making. Technical, financial, environmental, legal and other forms of expertise remain important. Rather, the findings suggest that **community knowledge can provide another important source of evidence alongside those forms of expertise.**

The consultation therefore reinforces a broader principle of meaningful public participation: people should have genuine opportunities to contribute to decisions that affect their lives, and their contributions should be considered as part of the evidence available to decision-makers.

The significance of the findings extends beyond the proposed N2 Wall

Although the consultation began with a specific question about the proposed N2 Wall and the allocation of approximately R115 million, the responses ultimately raised a broader question about how public resources can contribute to flourishing communities.

Participants identified many different priorities, and they did not all agree. Some supported the proposed wall or regarded greater physical security along the N2 as important. Others strongly opposed it. Some prioritised education and employment, while others focused on housing, healthcare, GBV support, environmental conditions, public spaces or basic services.

The value of the consultation is therefore not that it produces one unanimous answer. Its value lies in documenting the range of perspectives expressed and identifying the areas where strong patterns emerged.

Across those perspectives, one recurring aspiration was evident: **participants wanted public investment to produce meaningful improvements in people's lives and communities.**

The responses indicate that many participants were thinking beyond the immediate question of what should be built. They were considering what kind of investment could create greater opportunity, improve everyday conditions and contribute to communities that are safer, more prosperous and able to flourish.

Public participation as part of democratic decision-making

The consultation also raises a broader question about the role of public participation in democratic governance.

Democracy does not end when people cast their votes. Decisions about public resources continue to affect people's lives between elections, and meaningful participation provides an opportunity for people to contribute to those decisions.

This consultation cannot, by itself, determine what government should do with the proposed R115 million. Nor was it designed to replace technical or policy analysis. It provides something different: a record of what participants chose to say when they were given an opportunity to consider the proposed expenditure and express their views.

In that sense, the consultation demonstrates the potential value of creating spaces where people can participate directly in public conversations about decisions that affect them.

The findings do not prescribe a particular policy outcome. They provide evidence of participants' priorities, concerns and aspirations and place those perspectives alongside the other forms of evidence that should inform public decision-making.

Ultimately, the discussion points back to the principle that motivated this consultation: **better public decisions are possible when the people affected by those decisions are given meaningful opportunities to be heard.**

CONCLUSION

The People's Cost of Care Report began with a specific question: how did participants believe approximately **R115 million in public funds could best contribute to safer, more prosperous and flourishing communities?**

More than **17,200 people participated in the consultation**, and more than **12,900 chose to share their views directly with decision-makers in writing**. Their responses demonstrate that there is no single understanding of what communities need, nor was there complete agreement about the proposed N2 Wall. Participants expressed different views about the wall and about how public resources should be used. These differences form an important part of the consultation record.

At the same time, clear patterns emerged. Participants placed particularly strong emphasis on **education, youth and skills development, job creation and/or small business support, and housing and infrastructure**. They also identified women's shelters and GBV support, healthcare, safety, environmental conditions, public spaces, food security and basic services as important areas of community investment.

The written messages added another dimension to these findings. Participants did not simply identify priorities; they explained what those priorities meant to them. They spoke about children who need opportunities, people who need jobs, families who need safe and adequate housing, women and children who need protection, communities that need functioning services, and environments that need to be cared for. Many connected these issues to broader questions of safety, dignity, opportunity and quality of life.

The consultation also revealed an important distinction between **wanting safer communities and supporting a particular intervention to achieve that safety**. While safety and crime were recurring concerns, relatively few participants selected the proposed N2 Wall as a preferred investment. Many instead described safety as something that could be strengthened through investment in people, opportunity, public services, policing, education, employment, rehabilitation and community development.

Taken together, the findings provide a record of how participants believe public investment can contribute to stronger communities. They do not establish that any single investment will produce a particular outcome, nor do they prescribe a policy decision. Rather, they document the priorities, concerns, experiences and aspirations that participants chose to place on the public record.

Ultimately, **The People's Cost of Care Report is about the value of listening**. It demonstrates what can emerge when people are given an opportunity to speak about the places they live, the challenges they experience and the future they want to help build.

Public participation cannot replace technical, financial, environmental or policy expertise. But it can add something that those forms of evidence cannot provide on their own: **the knowledge and lived experience of the people whose lives public decisions affect.**

The hope is that these voices will be considered alongside the other evidence available to decision-makers as they determine how public resources can best serve South Africa's communities.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Consultation Questionnaire

The questionnaire below reproduces the questions presented to participants during the consultation. The wording and order are reproduced as presented during the consultation period. Questions marked **Required** had to be answered to submit a response; questions marked **Optional** could be left unanswered.

Question 1 – Required

Do you support the proposed N2 Wall?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Unsure
-

Question 2 – Required

Do you currently live in the Cape Flats?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ I have family there
 - ☐ Previously lived there
-

Question 3 – Required

If R115 million were available for community investment, where should it be spent?

(Select up to 5).

- ☐ Community-owned tourism projects
 - ☐ Education, youth and skill development
 - ☐ The proposed N2 Wall
 - ☐ Job creation initiatives and/or small business support
 - ☐ Women's shelters and GBV support
 - ☐ Parks, sports facilities, and arts and cultural programmes
 - ☐ Drug rehabilitation services
 - ☐ Housing and infrastructure
 - ☐ Public transport improvements
 - ☐ An N2 bridge or alternative safety infrastructure
 - ☐ Other
-

Question 4 – Optional

If you could send one message to decision-makers about the R115 million budget, what would it be?

Open response.

Question 5 – Optional

Would you like to stay involved in this conversation?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
-

Question 6 – Optional

If yes, your email address:

Optional response.

Appendix B: Analysis and Thematic Coding Framework

Purpose of the Framework

The written responses submitted by participants were reviewed to identify recurring issues, concerns, priorities and ideas expressed in relation to the proposed N2 Wall and the potential use of approximately R115 million in public funds.

The analysis used a thematic approach. Responses were grouped according to the subjects and ideas they raised, allowing recurring themes to be identified across the written submissions. Where a response addressed more than one issue, it could contribute to more than one thematic category.

The thematic framework was developed from the content of the participants' responses rather than being limited to the predefined investment options in the questionnaire. This allowed participants to introduce issues that were not explicitly included among the available choices.

The framework was used to organise and interpret the written responses and to assist in selecting representative quotations for the thematic analysis presented in the report.

Coding Approach

The thematic analysis followed several principles:

1. Participant language was retained.

The analysis sought to reflect the issues raised by participants rather than impose predetermined interpretations on their responses.

2. Responses could contain multiple themes.

A single response could address education, employment, safety and poverty, for example. Such a response was considered across the relevant themes rather than being restricted to a single category.

3. Themes were not limited to the questionnaire's predefined options.

The open-ended responses provided an opportunity for participants to raise additional concerns, including healthcare, environmental issues, food security, sanitation and other forms of community support.

4. Thematic analysis was used alongside quantitative results.

The written responses were considered in relation to the quantitative findings to identify areas where participants' written comments reinforced, expanded upon or provided context for the numerical results.

5. Quotations were selected to illustrate the range of perspectives expressed.

The quotations presented in the report are selected examples from the written responses. They are intended to demonstrate the kinds of concerns, priorities and aspirations expressed by participants and are not presented as statistically representative quotations.

Relationship to the Quote Bank

The thematic coding framework provided the basis for organising the **Selected Participant Quotes Organised by Theme** presented in **Appendix C**.

The quote bank is therefore a **curated collection of selected quotations**, while this appendix documents the **thematic framework used to organise the written responses**.

The underlying participant responses remain the primary source material for the analysis.

Table B1. Thematic Coding Framework for Messages to Decision-Makers

Theme	Examples of issues included
Proposed N2 Wall	Support or opposition to the wall, views on its effectiveness, concerns about separation or division, questions about whether it represents an appropriate use of public funds
Safety and Crime	Crime, policing, public safety, security, crime prevention, safety along the N2 corridor
Poverty, Inequality and Underlying Causes of Insecurity	Poverty, inequality, unemployment, social exclusion, substance abuse, structural disadvantage, causes of crime and insecurity
Education, Youth and Skills Development	Schools, teachers, tertiary education, student funding, skills development, youth programmes, literacy and numeracy
Jobs and Economic Opportunity	Employment, unemployment, job creation, small business, entrepreneurship, economic participation, livelihoods and economic independence
Women, Gender-Based Violence and Support Services	Women's shelters, GBV, domestic violence, violence against women and children, places of safety and support services
Healthcare and Community Wellbeing	Hospitals, clinics, healthcare access, preventative care, public health and community wellbeing
Housing and Infrastructure	Housing, roads, drainage, infrastructure, electricity and improvements to neighbourhoods and townships
Environment, Public Spaces and Sustainable Communities	Parks, recreation, pollution, waste, water, sanitation, nature conservation, environmental sustainability and public spaces
Food Security and Basic Needs	Food, hunger, water, sanitation, electricity and other essential needs
Transport and Alternative Safety Infrastructure	Public transport, N2 bridge, alternative infrastructure and movement through the N2 corridor
Community Development and Social Support	Community programmes, rehabilitation, social work, youth development, support services and community-led initiatives
Other / Additional Issues	Issues that did not fit clearly within the principal thematic categories, including disability support, LGBTQIA+ support and other participant-raised issues

Source: The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.

Appendix C: Selected Participant Quotes Organised by Theme

C.1 Proposed N2 Wall

"I say NO to the Apartheid N2 wall!! Spend the money on fixing the root causes (poverty and drugs) which lead people to crime. Spend the money on education and rehabilitation."

"A wall will not stop crime. This is not a solution."

"The wall will not prevent the crime."

"Crime only exist because of poverty and desperation. No amount of walls will fix crime, only investment in the community."

"A wall won't solve the crime issue, a wall only divides us further as a nation creating more anger, more animosity which will inevitably lead to more crime."

"Invest in people and communities. Poverty perpetuates crime. A wall will not fix it long term!"

"The high level of crime in the Cape flats are a result of poverty. To put a wall up is just covering up the problem instead of resolving the factors causing the problem."

Supportive perspectives

"Build the N2 wall. As someone who were attacked a few months ago I fully support this proposal. And I am aware of more people who were attacked recently, friends, coworkers and such. The situation is getting worse."

"I do support the wall as a safety measure because vehicles are constantly targeted."

C.2 Education, Youth and Skills Development

"They must use that money to increase the education budget to build more schools and universities to train and accommodate people so that they can obtain the skills to employ or be employed when either starting a business or applying for a position."

"NSFAS!!!! In fact, all public tertiary institutions should given funds so that all students are able to study and not be financially excluded as a result of not having funds !!!!"

"The money that is used to build the N2 wall could be used for better schooling equipment and to assist those who cannot afford fees."

"Stop waisting our money on shit and rather spend it on helping to improve our educational systems. Build more schools so our students can get the education they need. Better education leads to better jobs and better life choices."

"This is the type of money we need to invest in our kids, i.e. education department. Schools need more qualified teachers, so make posts available. Schools need support (especially primary school) in improving literacy and numeracy rates and skills."

"That 115 million rand budged to build a wall does not benefit Cape Town, instead it's to hide the poverty side of it. That 115 could be used to invest in education where more universities are built as there is a large percentage of students who have matriculated, who have passed matric well yet have no tertiary education opportunities due to the lack of space in universities."

"Better education leads to better jobs and better life choices."

C.3 Jobs and Economic Opportunity

"Instead of building a wall to hide the issues, address and take initiatives to solve the issues. Use the money towards uplifting the cape flats community and education. Building a wall will not solve the vicious circle of crime and poverty, you know that very well, perhaps you should also care. You have been elected to serve the people, all of them even those in the cape flats, not turn a blind eye. Do your job don't waste taxpayers money."

"That money should be used to improve the infrastructure of the cape flats and the townships and to create jobs for the unemployed in those areas to fulfil their constitutional rights. If this is done, it would drastically decrease crime (because people will actually be happy with their lives and feel like they have a purpose) which is what is being used as the so-called justification for the wall."

"Job creation initiatives and skills development"

"How does the wall enhance or create jobs, help , failing health system, failing education system, economy that is inclusive of all and not only the rich?"

C.4 Housing and Infrastructure

"Use our Tax money for the much needed infrastructures in Cape Town. People need affordable homes that are durable and reliable. A wall is the last of our problems. We need proper sewage systems in rural areas and clean running water."

"Prioritise human lives over concrete walls. Spending R115 million on a highway barrier while thousands of families in our poorest communities lack basic sanitation, safe housing, and food security is a misuse of public funds. True safety comes from lifting people out of poverty, not from building walls to hide them."

"Please spend this on more affordable housing for the underprivileged. Or assist with drug rehabilitation centres."

"Build more houses and create more jobs so that the country can develop."

"Build proper houses for South Africans, get rid of shacks."

"Housing and infrastructure, job creation and small business support especially local businesses."

"Spend it on public housing and infrastructure repairs instead. Why does this useless wall get 115 Million and the proposed expansion of homeless shelters only 100 million. The wall is not a solution, it is a way to hide from failure."

C.5 Women, Gender-Based Violence and Support Services

"Uplift impoverished communities, not build walls to segregate the poor from the rest of the city. Empower those who have no jobs or education. Create rehab & recreational centres for women & children so they dont end up on the streets. Invest in SA citizens so we may flourish together."

"We don't need the wall. This money could be allocated to improve education and health infrastructures in our communities because they are already in bad shape. And building shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence, GBV against women and children was declared a national disaster so we definitely do need shelters for victims and proper support channels."

"Incidents on the N1 highway (Cape Flats area) is very low when compared to gang violence, GBV, domestic violence etc. if you want to make sure people are 'safe' start actually caring about people and doing something that helps !!!"

"It's quite disheartening that so much money is available however it's not allocated to causes that desperately need it. We have been fighting for gender based violence and femicide to be declared a national disaster however our cries are not heard. A wall to separate the glamorous Cape Town with digital nomads that drive away the original inhabitants to live in impoverished areas and subject them to a poor standard of living is more important than any other cause that plagues this country."

C.6 Healthcare and Community Wellbeing

"Better medical care that is easily accessible (travelling clinics, sex and drug education, preventative care etc.)"

"We don't need the wall. This money could be allocated to improve education and health infrastructures in our communities because they are already in bad shape."

"We have kids dying in the Cape flats everyday , building a wall to protect people driving in cars for 5 minutes across the road is not worth the hundreds of lives we could save if its invested into our communities, our people and our infrastructure. How many lives could we save? How many houses could be built ? How many sports fields and courts could be built and renovated? How many day hospitals could use a makeover ? How many schools could use working environments? Its not worth it !"

"It's amazing how much money we have as a country but public hospitals are highly underfunded"

"People don't have jobs and houses even the hospitals need to be fixed , invest on something important then a wall , come on"

C.7 Food Security and Basic Needs

"Our people are standing in SASSA queues for food, teaching 60 kids in one classroom, waiting 8 hours at clinics, and praying the taps run today. We don't need another barrier made of concrete. The real walls we face are hunger, unemployment, and broken services. Use our tax money to tear those walls down, not to build new ones."

"There are families struggling to make ends meet. There are families unsure of where their next meal will come from. Instead of investing so much money into a wall that would create further separation, let's invest in food security."

"If you want to tackle crime, address the root cause. Free housing and free food for the poor. City-owned sorghum and cowpea (indigenous plants) farms can reduce food insecurity."

"Use it to build farms so people can grow their own food and survive."

"Give the people basic needs water, sanitation and electricity."

"Our country is lacking in basic needs water, sanitation yet money is being wasted on unnecessary projects. Water is a need and most of our country water structures are failing."

"Live on the cape flats for one day and you will see that most people now have to decide on whether to have electricity or eat on any given day"

"Crime, a product of poverty, reduces when money is directed towards educating, uplifting, housing, and feeding the poor - providing them with opportunities and necessities that uplift them from their current dire circumstances."

C.8 Environment, Public Spaces and Sustainable Communities

"Invest in crime prevention and providing proper services to the cape flats areas like mitchells plain, ie building better roads and highways... Build more clinics, more cop shops... Build out reach programs for the youth. More access to drug rehab facilities. More visible policing. Fix the street lights, fix the parks. Employ more people to keep mitchells plain clean."

"they are unfair to build a wall while cape flats are struggling with pollution in every corner"

"There are people there that still suffer from unhealthy environment, drains and houses that flood during winter. There are many young people unemployed kids without uniforms and hospitals that still have service shortages."

"Crime prevention, recreational activities such as maintaining parks, libraries & extracurricular activities for children to have an outlet and be discouraged from using drugs."

"Build parks and other recreational facilities, fix schools as there are so many schools without proper resources or even adequate space."

"Construct the wall and invest in Western Nature Conservation"

"Opposed to job creation, skills development, educational improvement and environmental sustainability and upliftment the DA views it better to build a wall to hide their own failures in the cape flats utilising the same disillusioned citizens tax rands."

"Give the people basic needs water, sanitation and electricity."

"better wastewater management. To keep our beaches safe and clean to use."

C.9 Voices from the Consultation

"Use the money to uplift these people instead of building a wall. There are better solutions other than the wall, such as proper housing and infrastructure, education, social work and job creation."

"Every rand in this R115 million budget represents the trust of the people you serve. Spend it where it creates the greatest long-term impact—not where it creates the biggest headlines. Prioritize transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes. Invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure, job creation, and public safety in ways that improve people's daily lives. Success shouldn't be measured by how much money is spent, but by how many lives are genuinely improved. Lead with integrity, because the choices you make today will shape communities for years to come."

"R115 million should be invested in projects that directly improve people's lives—better housing, schools, healthcare, public transport, job creation, and safer communities. Spending that money on a wall sends the wrong message. Rather than funding infrastructure that many see as excluding and dividing communities, invest in solutions that bring people together, expand opportunities, and address the root causes of inequality and crime. Public money should build stronger communities, not bigger barriers."

"Build homes for the homeless, provide food for those who are hungry, education and easy healthcare access"

If I could send one message to decision-makers about the R115 million budget, it would be this:

Please ensure every rand is spent where it will make the greatest difference. South Africans need to see real improvements in healthcare, education, infrastructure, job creation, and public safety, not just promises. Prioritise transparency, accountability, and long-term investments that improve people's quality of life. Public money belongs to the people, and every decision should reflect that responsibility.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed R115 million budget allocation intended for physical barriers that separate our communities.

Budgetary decisions are not merely financial calculations—they are moral choices that reflect whose safety, dignity, and rights take priority. Spending public funds on infrastructure that restricts movement and divides people undermines our constitutional values of equality, freedom of movement, and social integration.

Rather than addressing the root causes of our security and socio-economic challenges, this approach deepens systemic divides and shifts problems onto surrounding neighborhoods. Security is built through social stability, economic inclusion, and equal infrastructure—not concrete walls.

I urge you to reconsider this allocation and redirect these funds toward sustainable solutions: community-led safety programs, public lighting, youth development, and inclusive local infrastructure that unite and protect all residents equally."

*Source: The People's Cost of Care Report independent public consultation, 23 July–6 August 2026.
Participant response, Messages to Decision-Makers.*

SOURCES AND DATA

The findings presented in *The People's Cost of Care Report* are based on data collected through the independent public consultation conducted via Google Forms between **23 July and 6 August 2026**.

The analysis draws on participants' responses to the six-question consultation questionnaire, including quantitative responses to the structured questions and written messages submitted to decision-makers.

The written responses were reviewed and organised thematically by the author. A **Thematic Coding Framework** was developed to organise recurring themes identified in the messages. A separate **Participant Quote Bank** was created to preserve and organise participant quotations used during the analysis.

The People's Cost of Care Report – Participant Quote Bank: Messages to Decision-Makers is provided as supporting research material accompanying this report. The public version has been anonymised to remove personal information and unnecessary identifying data while preserving the substantive content of participants' messages.

The original consultation response dataset is retained separately as the underlying source data. It contains the full responses submitted through the consultation and is not publicly distributed in its original form where doing so could disclose participants' personal information.

The Quote Bank should therefore be understood as a **curated and anonymised qualitative evidence record**, rather than a complete reproduction of the original consultation dataset.

Supporting Research Material

Participant Quote Bank:

The anonymised *The People's Cost of Care Report – Participant Quote Bank: Messages to Decision-Makers* is available as supporting research material accompanying this report. It contains the participant messages used in the qualitative analysis, organised by theme, together with their submission timestamps.

Access: The Quote Bank can be accessed at

 **Peoples Cost of Care Report Quote Bank: Messages to Decision Makers**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JdUXSW_aT20bxXPvaMFw74LkzR_Q9CLg/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106818603195099416855&rtpof=true&sd=true