

POST RIOTS

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THE WESTERN Cape since become a preferred destination for those who are well off following the riots that took place in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

Ryk Neethling, the marketing director of one of South Africa's prime estates, said the sudden home confinement caused by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns including in South Africa occasioned an immediate reconsideration of the way people live and

work and since riots many families and retirees are carefully considering where the most secure environment is to invest in their homes, businesses and healthy lifestyles.

"Nearly 300 properties, consisting of homes, offices and stands, were sold in the past year, and 1 500 families now live across the greater estate.

"Some of the attractions within the estate's safe borders include a pre-school, pharmacy, fresh produce farm,

safe trails for cycling, walking and running, and the Pearl Valley Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course that is ranked number two in the country," Neethling said.

He said investments that are being made into the estate also bring benefits for the broader community of the Cape Winelands and the greater Western Cape economy.

"In the past year, Val de Vie Estate contributed approximately R150 million in rates and property taxes to

the Drakenstein Municipality, making it the single largest tax-payer in the valley.

"This figure does not take into account the additional income that the municipality derived from residents' water and electricity consumption," Neethling said.

He said the estate also provides employment throughout the valley. Over the past year, more than 17 100 contractors worked at the estate at least once a week performing construction,

landscaping and other roles. Residents employed more than 1 500 people including domestic workers, gardeners, au pairs and home assistants.

"Crucially, the estate is a major contributor to the local tourist economy, attracting visitors to the golf, polo, and cycling events it hosts every year.

"There is also the immeasurable impact of businesses or entrepreneurial endeavours started or relocated to the valley by residents," Neethling said.