

GOOD



Founded:	2018
Leader:	Patricia de Lille
Political position:	Centre left
Ideology:	Liberal social democracy

History

The GOOD party was formed in 2018 by political veteran Patricia de Lille after her resignation as mayor of Cape Town amid in-fighting in the DA and allegations of maladministration. The party's constitution commits GOOD to building a more equitable South Africa based on the values and principles of social democracy to address inequality and exclusion (26). It pursues a policy platform of environmentalism, anti-racism, and Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment. The party's stronghold is the Western Cape and mainly draws support from the coloured community.

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GOOD is the second political party founded by De Lille after leaving the Pan African Congress (PAC) in 2003 to form the Independent Democrats (ID) which merged with the DA in 2010. As such, GOOD has somewhat of an electoral record, with the ID scoring seven and four seats in the national assembly after the 2004 and 2009 national elections respectively. Currently, the party only holds two seats in parliament after winning just 0.4 per cent of votes in the 2019 election. Nonetheless, De Lille still looms large on the political scene after being appointed to Cyril Ramaphosa's cabinet, first as public works minister and more recently as minister of tourism.

Electoral record (27)

- 2004: 1.7%
- 2009: 0.9%
- 2019: 0.4%

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with party secretary-general Brett Herron)

Economic growth and job creation

GOOD's approach to the South African economy is to pursue inclusive growth to reduce government debt and drive job creation. This would be accomplished primarily through the ramping up of state investment in large scale infrastructure which it regards as the best opportunity for job creating and economic growth. The party, however, is mindful that the country's economic recovery will not be immediate. Accordingly, GOOD wants to combine their infrastructure investment approach with the immediate introduction of a R999 monthly Basic Income Grant.

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Safety and security

GOOD rejects heavy handed policing and wants to build safer communities by holistically addressing the root causes of crime. The party wants to overhaul the criminal justice system, but also meaningfully tackle poverty, inequality, mental health, and addiction. GOOD will also drive investment in public infrastructure to address the Apartheid era social disparities found in the most dangerous communities.

Foreign affairs

GOOD intends to pursue South Africa's existing policy of non-alignment and multilateralism to create a less western-centric international system that is better designed to ensure fairness of influence and outcomes at the international level. However, this must be done with full respect to international law. The party believes that through this non-alignment, South Africa can continue to support and facilitate the resolution of international conflict—specifically on the African continent.

Energy security

GOOD rejects carbon intensive energy sources, particularly coal, in South Africa's energy mix and believes renewable energy is the only sustainable and long-term solution to secure South Africa's energy supply. To end load shedding, the party believes the country's transmission grid must be rapidly upgraded and maintained before government urgently enters public/private partnerships to rapidly procure renewable energy. GOOD would also immediately remove barriers and incentivise large scale private sector renewable power generation. This would be combined with the rolling out of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programme for property owners to financially assist in converting to solar energy.

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Education

GOOD believes education is a national emergency and is arguably the greatest failure of the democratic era. The party would ensure that all children enter formal education at least at Grade 1 level and that the standard of teaching and learning infrastructure is the same in wealthy communities as in poorer communities. GOOD also supports free basic and tertiary education for the financially disadvantaged.

Mineral resources

GOOD regards South Africa's mineral resources as the property of the country's people and as such, society must be compensated appropriately for their extraction. However, this does not equate to nationalisation, but rather better exploit the government revenue earned from mining. For example, the party would allocate mining royalties directly to the funding of their proposed R999 Basic Income Grant.

Youth development

GOOD believes South Africa's youth are rapidly becoming disenchanted with the country's politics and democratic system. To remedy this, the party would focus on skills development by providing access to high-quality education and vocational training to all South Africa's youth. GOOD would also refocus the country's political discourse to issues of "generational justice" that are important to this generation, such as climate change, LGBTQIA+ acceptance, and mental health.

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Housing

One of GOOD's founding principles is the right to housing and spatial justice and the party believes everyone has a right to safe and affordable housing. A GOOD government would provide housing to those unable to access it through their own means. The party believes public land should be used for public good and would enact well-located affordable and public housing programmes to end the Apartheid legacy of housing poorer people on the outskirts of cities where they have great difficulty in accessing economic opportunities. GOOD would also urgently resolve land tenure for informal settlement dwellers.

The environment and climate change

GOOD accepts the science of climate change and that global warming presents an existential threat to humanity that must be met with a radical and urgent response. The party will ensure South Africa plays its part in tackling climate change by pursuing a 100 per cent renewable energy mix and completely reject fossil fuels. The party would also accelerate the infrastructure development needed to run electric vehicles in South Africa. Moreover, GOOD wants wealthier developed countries to directly fund this transition to renewable energy in South Africa and other developing nations.

Tourism

The GOOD party would prioritise investment in destination marketing and ensure ease of access for foreign visitors with streamlined visa processes. A GOOD government would also invest heavily in tourism infrastructure especially in rural areas to ensure tourism's potential to foster small business development and address unemployment across the country.

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Immigration and xenophobia

GOOD identifies an urgent need to combat anti-immigrant rhetoric, fuelled by right-wing populist parties in South Africa as the party believes it breeds xenophobic violence in the country. Practically, this would involve community outreach programmes to conscientize South Africans. A GOOD-led government would guarantee immigration is policed to prevent illegal and unchecked immigration.

LGBTIQA+ rights

GOOD would enact legislation that further entrenches existing constitutional rights of freedom of sexuality and expression. Hence, seeking to create a society where people of sexual and gender minorities can live happily and freely without any fear of how they choose to love.

South Africa's twelve official languages

The GOOD party recognises the constitutional and cultural rights of all languages in South Africa and would ensure that all languages not only be afforded equal rights in law, but in practice too.

Artificial intelligence

The GOOD party advocates for responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and proposes legislation against its harmful weaponisation, particularly in spreading misinformation, sedition, or promoting biases. To address potential job displacement, the party emphasises enhanced training and skills development in the tech sector. Additionally, GOOD's introduction of a Basic Income Grant would further mitigate against the potential increase in unskilled unemployment that AI could deliver.

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Sources:

- (26) GOOD party constitution - <https://forgood.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Good-Movement-Constitution-As-Amended-28-Nov-2022.pdf>
 - (27) Independent Electoral Council 2019 National & Provincial elections - <https://results.elections.org.za/dashboards/npe/app/dashboard.html>
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