

ActionSA



Founded:	2020
Leader:	Herman Mashaba
Political position:	Centre right to right-wing
Ideology:	Free-market liberalism

History

ActionSA was formed in 2020 by “Black Like Me” tycoon and maverick politician Herman Mashaba after his surprise tenure as the DA’s Johannesburg mayor.

The party’s provisional constitution depicts ActionSA as a non-racial movement that promises a customer-centric government founded on an ethical and professional public service. It envisions a free-market economy where the government plays a supporting role to the private sector as the main driver of economic growth (40). ActionSA has been accused of xenophobia for its tough stance on illegal migration, often claiming the bulk of South Africa’s problems are a result of undocumented migrants.

The party’s track record in government is limited, having only fought the 2021 local government elections. The party has, however, formed part of coalition municipal governments in Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay, and Tshwane. ActionSA claims its own internal polling illustrates broad-based multiracial support across South Africa. However, this has never been backed up by results in a general election, since 2024 will be ActionSA’s maiden national ballot.

Positions

(Source: Email correspondence with ActionSA chairperson Michael Beaumont)

Economic growth and job creation

ActionSA foresees economic growth to be inclusive, sustainable, and provide access to opportunity and prosperity for all South Africans. The party believes that the best way to achieve this is to create a conducive regulatory and political environment for a competitive and responsible market-based economy.

The party would focus on state investment into economic infrastructure and reforming the labour regime in favour of job creation over protectionism. ActionSA would also support the development of economic sectors with high job-creation potential and seek to improve South Africa's economic competitiveness by driving competition within the local economy, and promoting investment and trade locally and internationally.

A unique economic policy by ActionSA would be the establishment of the Opportunity Fund—a sovereign fund that will be partially funded by corporate profits currently being spent on BEE compliance. This fund will invest exclusively in grassroots opportunity generation and be used to create access to entrepreneurial funding and tertiary education.

It will also fund financial literacy, education, and awareness programmes to drive socio-economic development through the deployment of capital socially transformative programmes.

Safety and security

ActionSA believes no country can flourish in a state of lawlessness and the party's short-term focus would be on preventing and prosecuting crime, through measures including legal reforms that impose stricter punishment on criminals, professionalise and adequately resource the police service alongside prioritising community safety and improving the performance of the criminal justice and correctional services systems.

In the long term, ActionSA aims to address the root causes of crime by creating a more inclusive, just, and equitable society where the drivers of crime are adequately addressed.

Foreign affairs

ActionSA believes that South Africa's approach to foreign affairs must be anchored in the advancement of human rights and the interests of all South African people. An ActionSA government will use diplomatic mechanisms to counter discrimination, oppression, and aggression.

ActionSA also believes that they must use foreign relations strategically to advance mutually beneficial international trade.

Energy security

ActionSA proposes the development of a competitive and decentralised energy supply market, which will be subject to responsible regulation to achieve universal access to clean, affordable, and reliable electricity.

The party would also pursue a gradual shift towards a renewable energy mix where South Africa pragmatically balances the social, economic, and environmental considerations related to the continued use of fossil fuels for energy generation.

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Education

ActionSA regards education as the most powerful tool for creating a prosperous society and wants to build an education system that is anchored in empowering people to achieve their own version of prosperity.

The party will depoliticise and professionalise the country's education institutions and improve the outcomes of basic education with a specific focus on reading for meaning and critical thinking.

ActionSA will further structure South Africa's education—including vocational training—to be aligned with the needs of the South African economy.

Mineral resources

ActionSA wants South Africa and South Africans to derive more value from the country's vast supply of mineral resources. The party strives to achieve this by investing in local beneficiation mechanisms to ensure that South Africa creates higher value exports. This would be achieved by allocating resources to research and development in beneficiation technologies and developing incentives for industries to engage in beneficiation.

Youth development

ActionSA will support youth development by improving the performance of the education system and expanding access to high quality educational opportunities and skills development programmes which includes affordable and quality tertiary education.

The party will also use its proposed Opportunity Fund to address the barriers to opportunities and unemployment faced by young South Africans.

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Housing

ActionSA would like to speed up the availability and provision of affordable and public housing by amending zoning regulations to increase the construction of high-rise residential buildings in urban centres. The party will also identify and expropriate hi-jacked and abandoned properties, factories, and land as well as land and property owned by the state that is suitable for affordable housing. ActionSA will then release it to the private sector for the development of mixed-use buildings that include affordable housing.

The environment and climate change

ActionSA supports the transition to a low-carbon economy, while maintaining that the transition can and must be just and people-oriented. The party regards climate change as not only imperative to the continued well-being of the country's population and environment, but to provide economic opportunities for South Africans. ActionSA believes there is an inherent connection between the country's people and its natural environment and as such, it would guarantee the protection of the environment and enforce sustainable development practices.

Tourism

ActionSA identifies tourism as one of South Africa's key industries and wants to grow the sector by reforming tourist and business visa requirements and processes to make it easier for foreigners to visit and do business in South Africa. The party would also introduce remote-working visas and establish specialised crime prevention units to ensure the safety of tourists as well as encourage destination marketing in strategic markets.

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Immigration and xenophobia

ActionSA condemns all forms of xenophobia in the strongest terms. The party will introduce reforms in South Africa's immigration regulations and overhaul Home Affairs to streamline the process of entering South Africa legally and to attract skilled workers. An ActionSA government would also enforce strict security of South Africa's borders to address the high levels of illegal immigration into the country. Furthermore, the party would provide more support to genuine refugees and asylum seekers if it were elected to govern.

LGBTIQA+ rights

ActionSA fully supports the LGBTIQA+ rights and will eradicate all forms of discrimination against members of the community. The party will implement special measures to ensure that indigent and vulnerable members of the community have better opportunity to exercise their rights, as enshrined in the Constitution.

South Africa's twelve official languages

ActionSA supports the development of South Africa's twelve languages and would improve access to mother-tongue education. The party would also ensure that more people have access to services in their mother-tongue and expand access to services in South African Sign Language.

Artificial intelligence

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ActionSA will speed up the development and adoption of a comprehensive Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy that provides guidance on a just transition to a modernised economy. The party's strategy would include guidelines for the responsible regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI), with a particular focus on harnessing the potential of such technologies for economic development in the informal sector.

Source:

(40) Action-SA provisional constitution - <https://www.actionsa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Interim-Constitution-31.03.2023.pdf>
