

Party sues Cyril 'for the ruin'

ACTIONSA: BUSINESS, INDIVIDUALS CAN JOIN LAWSUIT

» Insurance industry also comes to the party.

Eric Naki

Businesses affected by the ongoing riots were asked to join ActionSA's lawsuit against the state to force it to account for losses and damages caused to businesses in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The insurance industry wanted to join as *amicus curae* as party leader Herman Mashaba announced the lawsuit yesterday.

The party planned to sue President Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister of Police Bheki Cele, the members of the Security Cluster and the ruling ANC, among others.

"It is their constitutional duty to ensure they take proactive and reasonable steps to protect and preserve the rule of law... A

failure or omission to faithfully perform this legal duty must carry consequences as real as those experienced by South Africans, who have lost their lives and livelihoods because of the executive's incompetence and wilful inaction," Mashaba said.

Neither Mashaba, nor the party's interim senate member, Adv Gillian Benson, could determine how many businesses would be represented or what the lawsuit would cost. Benson said each case would be assessed on merit but both business and individuals affected would be welcomed.

"While large sections of KZN and Gauteng witnessed the destruction of private and public property, the end of businesses and livelihoods, the breakdown of law and order and the sad loss of life, Ramaphosa and his executive remained deadly silent. As South Africans, our pleas for assistance were met with silence until the situation was out of control," Mashaba said.

Insurance group Sasria was

coming to the party, he said, but the details of its involvement were unclear. Sasria provides special risk cover to individuals and businesses, as well as government entities, against risks such as civil commotion, public disorder, strikes, riots and terrorism.

It's understood the industry was facing damage claims running into billions.

Gauteng leader John Moodie painted a grim picture of under-resourced police members who were overwhelmed by rioters.

He claimed police ran out of rubber bullets and used under-powered teargas that proved useless against the looters.

ActionSA Western Cape interim leader Vytjie Mentor urged all South Africans to stand up against the violence.

"South Africa must stand up and stop this carnage. Let this mayhem stop.

"It is us who are going to stop us," Mentor said.

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