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Second start

The present tensions between South Africa and Mozambique are remarkably similar to the circumstances which prevailed a few years ago and eventually gave rise to the Nkomati Accord.

Sound statesmanship, which amounted to the facing of realities, was then the factor that gave rise to hopes of stability.

Due to internal complications, which have submerged the country in political, economic and social chaos, actual stability has not yet materialised in Mozambique. And South Africa has often been blamed for being instrumental in the misfortune which the Mozambican Government had to experience, even though South Africa denied such accusations.

The Nkomati Accord promised a definite turning-point in the deterioration. It is similar to the efforts now being made by the two governments to revive the accord and can yield positive results. The willingness for co-operation, with the goal of removing misunderstandings, is a praiseworthy second start.

However, then one must not speak in tongues. The Mozambican Government will have to realise that if it wishes to serve two gods — that of the realistic reconstruction of its country and that of the illusionary world of an ideology which is an empty slogan for Africa and represents a real threat — it will remain a loser.

Pretoria

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