

The recent warming of the political climate between Mozambique and SA, ideological enemies condemned by geography and history to a relationship of economic intimacy, has breathed new life into the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric project ... At a meeting in June in Lisbon, SA signed a new agreement with Mozambique and Portugal for the supply of electricity from the dam.

In an apparent reversal of allegiance, SA has also agreed to help the Mozambique Army protect the power lines against Renamo. Serious doubts remain in Lisbon and Maputo, however, about whether Pretoria really intends, or indeed is still able, to bring Renamo to heel. Even without any interference from the rebels, it would take up to 18 months to repair the damaged pylons and power lines.

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