

Church education move

The Roman Catholic church is planning to move into higher education in Mozambique with the support of religious tertiary institutions in Portugal and possibly even Brazil, according to reports in Lisbon.

In a recent interview, the Bishop of Tete, Paulo Mandlate, who is also the president of the Mozambican Bishops' Conference (CEM), told journalists that his organisation is looking for support from Portuguese Catholic bishops and also from the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), in setting up a religiously-oriented "higher institution".

The prelate added that after two meetings with UCP officials, "the response was positive," although concrete forms of support had not yet been decided.

Mandlate has been Bishop of Tete since 1976, and was passing through Portugal on his way to Rome to submit a five-year report on conditions in his diocese.

He is known to favour the "Africanisation" of Mozambican Catholic practice, arguing that "we become Christians as we are" and that the Church must distinguish what is essential to Christian faith and what is culturally determined.

The CEM is working on a declaration of intent, which will outline its plans, but has already revealed that the planned institution, which it hopes will eventually become the Catholic University of Mozambique, will initially be based in Beira in the former Colegio Goncalo da Silveira.

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