





# SEMINAR SERIES "THE CONVERSATION"

Date: 17 March, 2022 Time: 0930hrs - 1130hrs

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The Future of ODeL in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities

Open, Distance and eLearning (ODeL) Implementation in Malawi: A Critical review of challenges and prospects

Assoc. Prof. Joshua Valeta, Director of ODeL, Ministry of Education, Malawi **Keynote and Objectives** 

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BUT TEACHERS WHO USE TECHNOLOGY

WILL PROBABLY

REPLACE TEACHERS

WHO DO NOT.

# Let "The Conversation' Begin.



Paul Valery

The trouble with our

times is that the future



REPLACE

TEACHERS...

UNIQUE

TRACRING

RESOURCES

is not what it used to be. Relevant **Open, Distance** and e-Learning **IS CHANGE** that prepares **Education for** the Future

ERT during COVID is a grand experiment (Winston 2020)

ODeL is a frontier between the old and new world (CoL, 2020, &Roy, 2020)

Dear Past. Thanks for all the lessons. Dear Future, I'm ready...

Malawi

Ministry of Education, Capital Hill Circle, Lilongwe,

## Where are we coming from?

1990s

1965

Malawi

Correspondence

College: For school leavers

and teachers.

Schools
Broadcasting
Unit offered

student support

SADC ODL

Project...led to

1973

MCC (print) & SBU

(radio) merged.

1987

MCDE through DECs

and Night Secondary

Schools.

Polytechnic professional evening courses.

Aggrey Memorial offered primary and Secondary.

DTED, DCE trained teachers.

**Post 2000** 

Universities picked up ODeL to

scale. Tikwerere IRI @ MCDE.

**Government Policies** 

Acknowledging ODeL more &

funding through projects.

2020

COVID19 big bang!

2021

ODeL Directorate is born!

MCDE as Regional Center of Specialization in Secondary

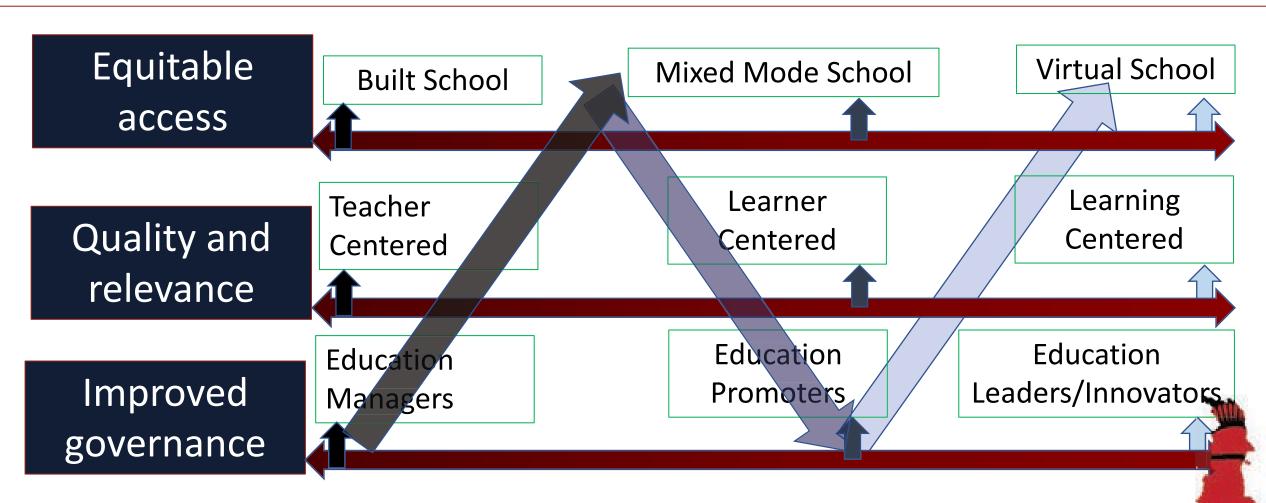




#### MW2063, NESIP2020-30 & EDUCATION REFORMS



1) Equitable access, 2) Quality and relevance, 3) Improved governance





### Why Malawi Needs Innovative Education Access Pathways?

- 1) Building ALL The Necessary Classrooms
- 2) Recruiting and Training ALL the Teachers

Will take too much money (which is not available) &

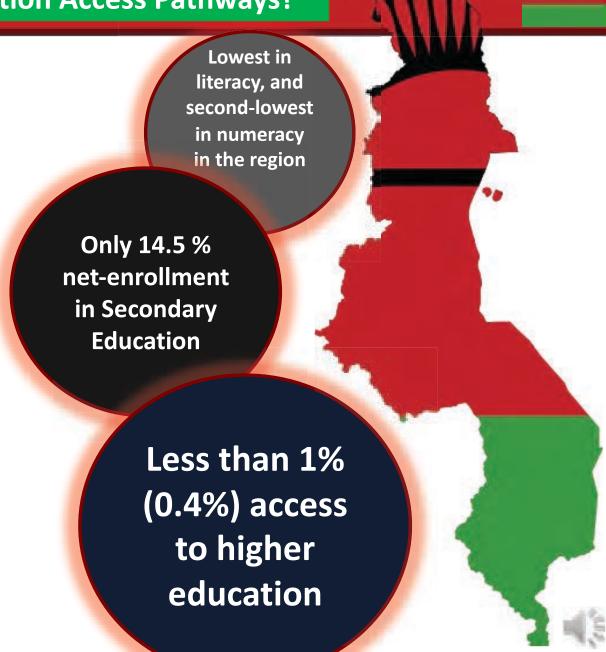
Too Long a time...And then comes COVID19 and other disasters demanding a resilient education system.

#### Hence the need for:

- 1) More Scalable/Expandable Learning Space Accessible Anywhere Anytime, and
- 2) Adaptable Teaching and Learning that Enhances Integration of Science Technology and Innovation at

## **Ministry of Education Position:**

Mainstream and Expand Open Learning and Digital Learning Systems as part of the Education Delivery Package and a Resilience Strategy!





## Where are we on ODeL in Malawi?

~10%
of all tertiary
education
students learn
through ODeL

of all Secondary
Learners are in
Open Schooling.
60% of curriculum
is digitalized.

Across Malawi,
Interactive
Radio
Instruction is
ON AIR!

But,

we need to fix stuff...







#### **ODel Success Pillars**





Policies &
Financing
(MW2063, NESIP,
Edu, ODEL, ICT,
STI...)
Reforms,
Strategies and
Plans

Reliable ICT
Infrastructure



Equitable Access to Devices, Internet,
Literature



#### Where are we going with ODeL in Malawi?

ODeL Critical Path to Human Capital Development for Malawi 2063

Quality Assurance System for ODeL

School Curricula Digitalized (>50%). Minimum Standards
Achieved At All Levels
75% e-Learning Adoption.
Smart Schools in All Divisions.
Majority of Students and
Teachers Access Computers &
Digital Education.

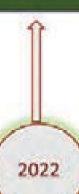
Exceed Minimum Standards At All Levels

100% Secondary Access.
Tertiary Education Access
Increased to Global Average.
ECD, Primary & Adult Literacy
EdTech Accessible to All Homes

Effective Practice At All Levels

Guaranteed School Places. 75% Critical Mass Produced. At All Levels

Functional Critical Mass Produced



2025

2030

2040

2063

- 1. ODeL Policy
- 2. Strategy, Quality & IP plans
- 3. EdTech needs assessment
- 4. Education Portal & Apps
- 5. Scale out best practices
- 6. Zero e-content rating
- 7. Digitalization: More e-
- Learning, Radio & TV programs
- Advocate for LMS at all public tertiary institutions
- 9. Benchmarking, collaboration
- & knowledge sharing
- 10. Governance & financing

- 1. Computer loans and grants
- 2. Infrastructure including the Open University of Malawi
- 3. ODeL training & CPD
- 4. Virtual Science Labs & Data Centers
- 5. Digital assessment and feedback systems
- School & community ODeL hubs, and digital libraries
- 7. Integrate digital literacy in curricula
- 8. Local EdTech production
- 9. ODel. promotions

- 1. Flexible learning choices
- computers accessible to all schools, every student & home
- ICT teachers and interns in every school and community
- 4. Real time virtual science labs
- 5. Enhanced Education Mobile Apps
- Strengthen OBeL Community of Practice and policy reviews
- Intensify research and quality in programming

- 1. Action research institutionalized for EdTech
- 2. Mainstream reflective learning using EdTech
- 3. Homes connected to wireless education grids
- 4. e-Learning for most programs in schools
- 5. Expand e-Learning for internationals
- Integrate EdTech into industry for virtual internships and machine learning research

- 1. Universal open schooling
- Artificial intelligence and precision engineering enabled EdTech
- 3. EdTech capacity Audit
- 5. EdTech revolution program

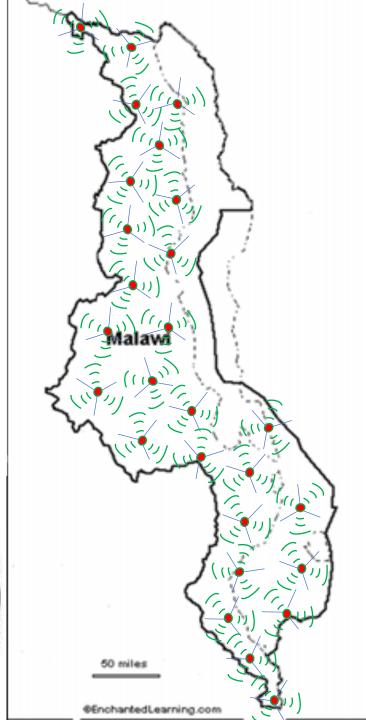
LEGEND: CPD=Continuing Professional Development. ECD=Early Cstidhood
Development. ICT=Information and Communication Technologies. LMS=Learning
Management System. ODeL=Open, Distance and e-Learning. Smart School=School
with EdTech integrated into teaching and learning in all subjects, with internet and/or
offline education e-content access, and digital citizenship mainstreamed in curricula.

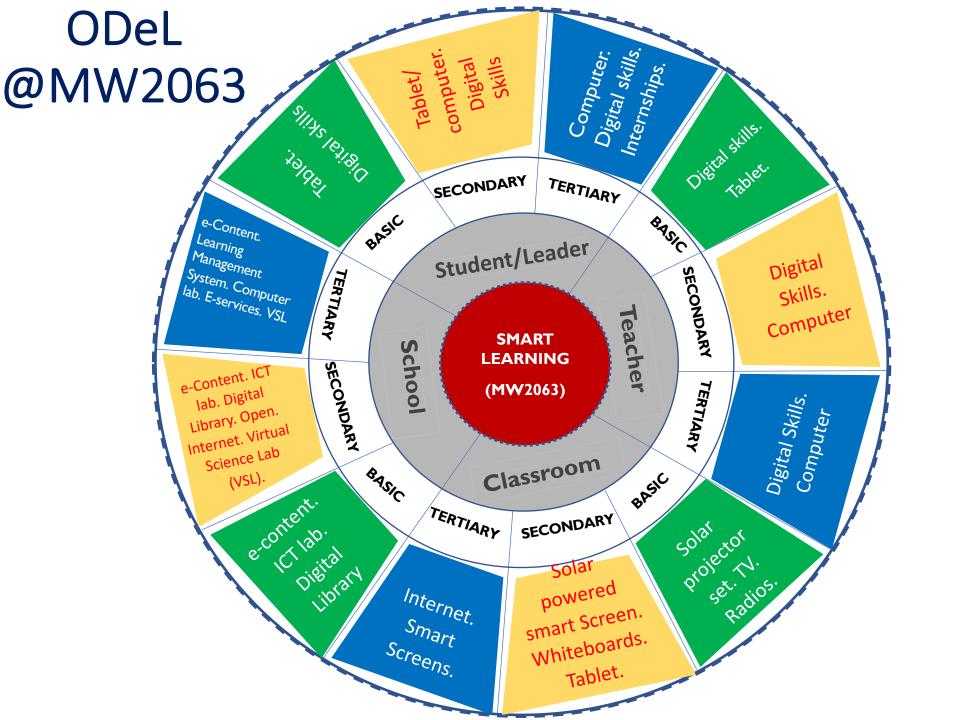
#### The Malawi Education Future We Want to Attaing Is Where...

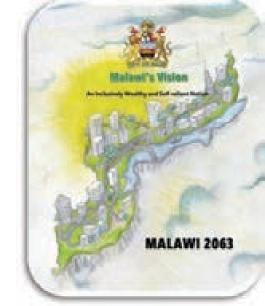
Malawi's Schools and Communities Are Connected to and Accessing Relevant Education Resource Hubs through Offline and Online Networks, which will see...

- 1. All children getting at least 12 years of education.
- 2. More youths and adults equipped with relevant skills acquired through open and flexible education system
- 3. All learners and teachers accessing and using affordable digital devices and the internet for needed for education
- 4. Schools and classrooms upgraded to offer enhanced teaching and learning through innovation and technology integration, where there are
- 5. Masses embracing and supporting the expansion of a resilient and digitally enhanced education system so that quality learning continues even during emergencies













## Let "The Conversation' Begin.



Relevant Open,

• And we are gathered here today, virtually, to share research findings, experiences from policy and practice, and perspectives of *The Future of ODeL in the 21st Century, with a focus on Challenges and Opportunities.* 

The aim ladies and gentlemen, and in keeping with the spirit of the "Conversation Series" is for us to have a conversation that will help shape ODeL in Malawi and the region, through sharing i.e. talking about it, analyzing and offering what would work to help leapfrog ODeL in pursuit of enhanced equitable access to quality learning without leaving anyone behind.

- Therefore, let us feel free and actively participate. I wish you all well.
- Ladies and gentlemen, let the conversation begin!

Distance and e-Learning **IS CHANGE** that prepares **Education for** the Future The trouble with cur times is that the future is not what it used to be. Paul Valery