



SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION  
*Excellence in ODL*



## SEMINAR SERIES “THE CONVERSATION”

Date: 17 March, 2022

Time: 0930hrs – 1130hrs

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### *Theme:*

*The Future of ODeL in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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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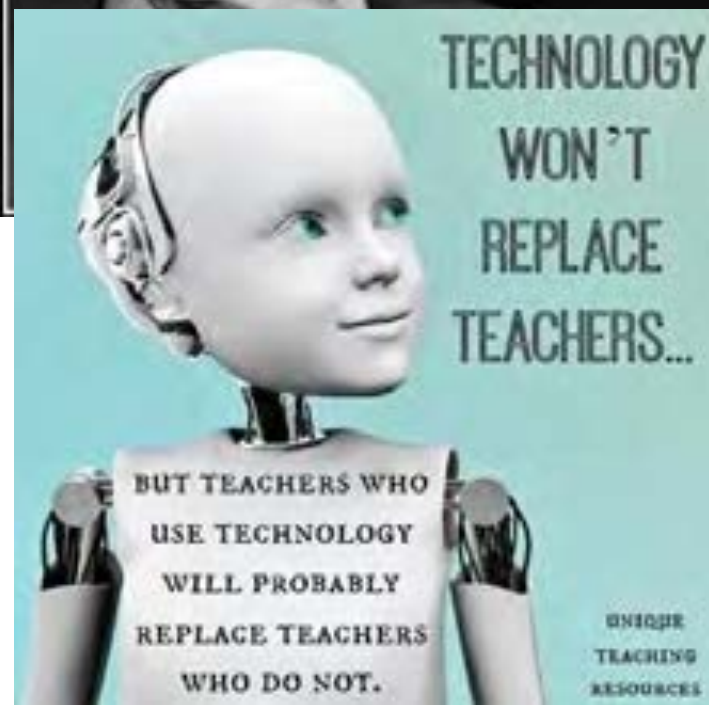
# Let “The Conversation” Begin.



The most serious failure of leadership is the failure to foresee

— Robert K. Greenleaf —

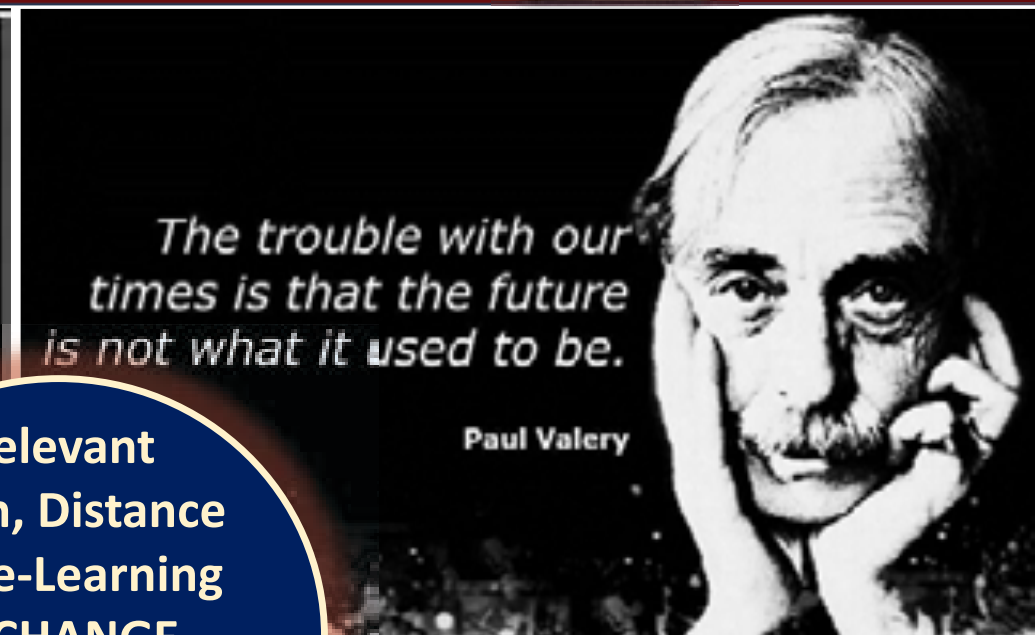
AZ QUOTES



TECHNOLOGY  
WON'T  
REPLACE  
TEACHERS...

BUT TEACHERS WHO  
USE TECHNOLOGY  
WILL PROBABLY  
REPLACE TEACHERS  
WHO DO NOT.

UNIQUE  
TEACHING  
RESOURCES



*The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.*

Paul Valéry

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...

1964



## Where are we coming from?



**1965**

**Malawi  
Correspondence  
College: For  
school leavers  
and teachers.**

**Schools  
Broadcasting  
Unit offered  
student  
support**

**1973**

**MCC (print) & SBU  
(radio) merged.**

**1987**

**MCDE through DEC  
and Night Secondary  
Schools.**

**1990s**

**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!**

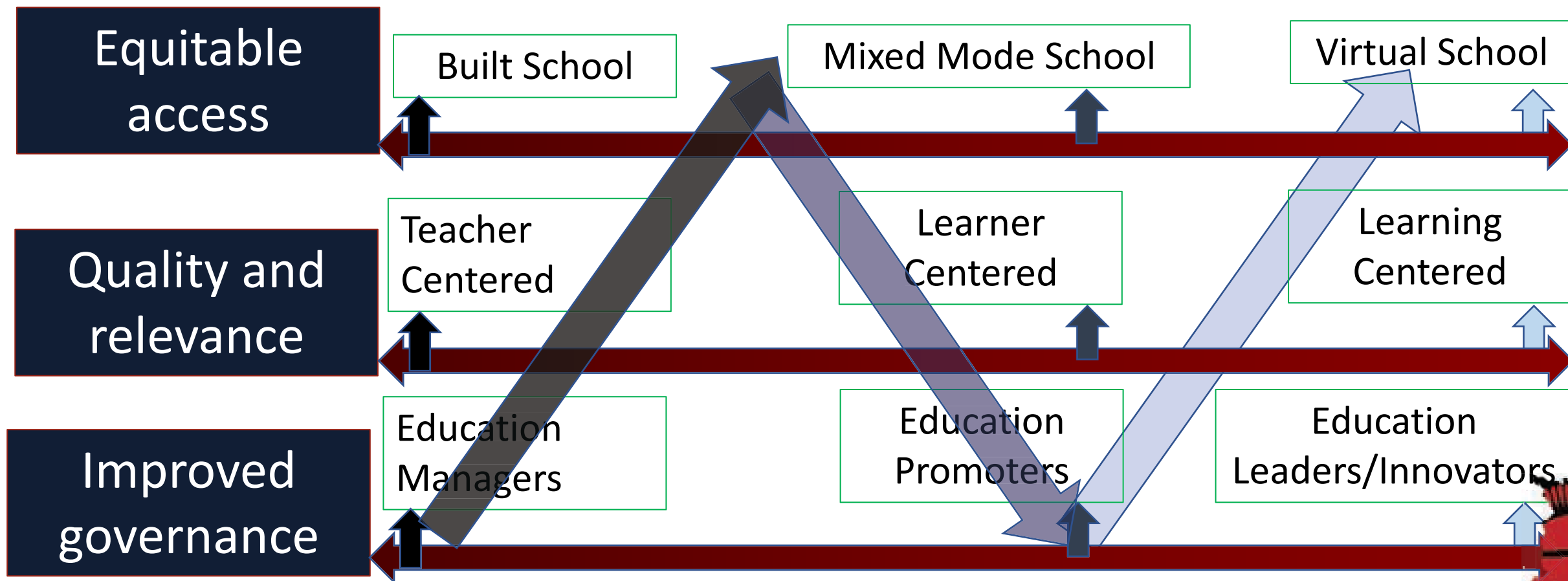
*SADC ODL*

*Project...led to*

*MCDE as Regional Center of Specialization in Secondary Education*



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



How far are we prepared to go? We need Equitable Access, yes, but with Quality and Relevance!



# 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

Scale

## **Ministry of Education Position:**

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

Lowest in  
literacy, and  
second-lowest  
in numeracy  
in the region

Only 14.5 %  
net-enrollment  
in Secondary  
Education

Less than 1%  
(0.4%) access  
to higher  
education







# Where are we on ODeL in Malawi?



**~10%**  
of all tertiary  
education  
students learn  
through ODeL

**22%**  
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



Digitalized Curriculum



Reliable ICT Infrastructure



ODeL Critical Mass & awareness



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

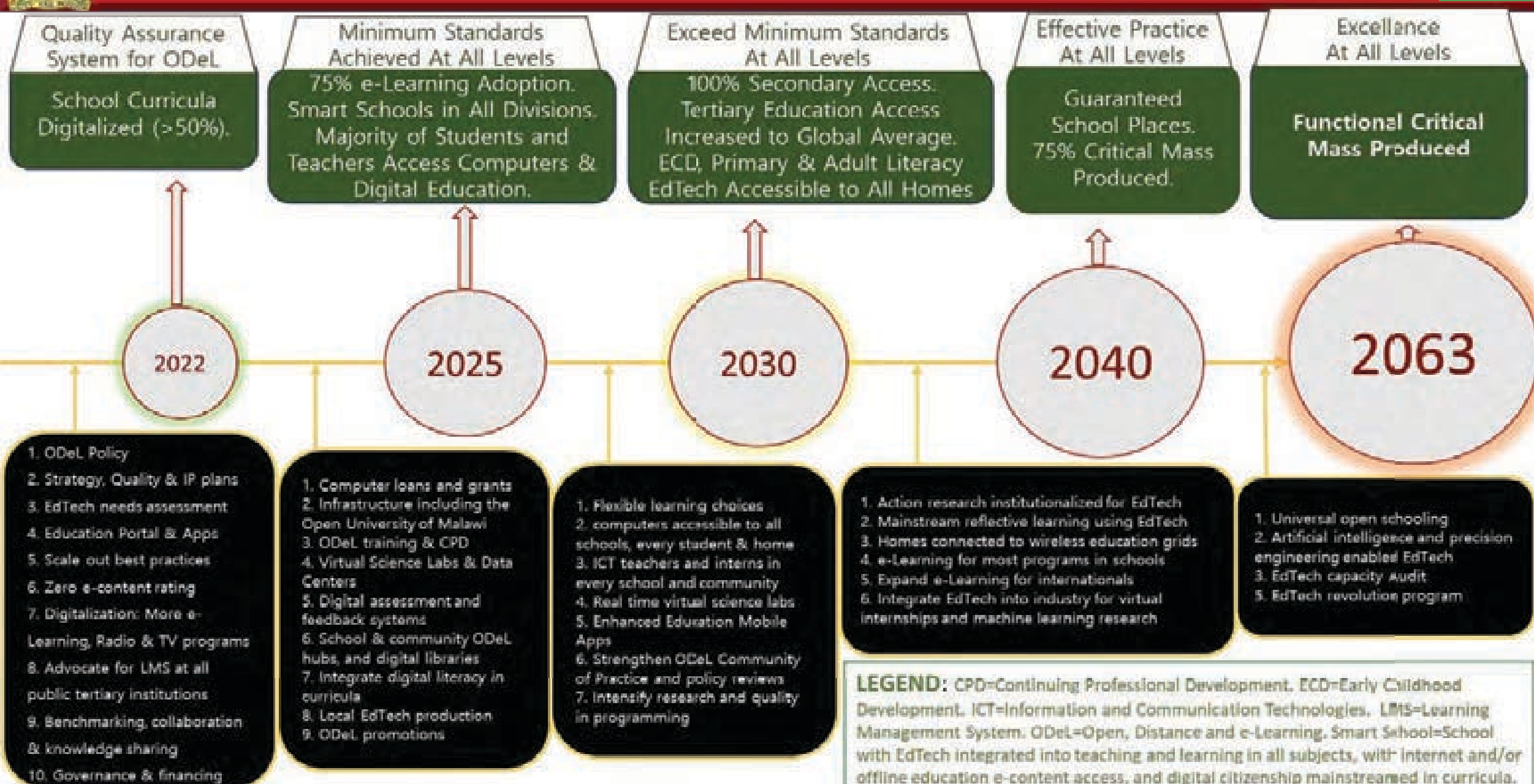
Equitable Access to Devices, Internet, Literature





# Where are we going with ODeL in Malawi?

ODeL Critical Path to Human Capital Development for Malawi 2063





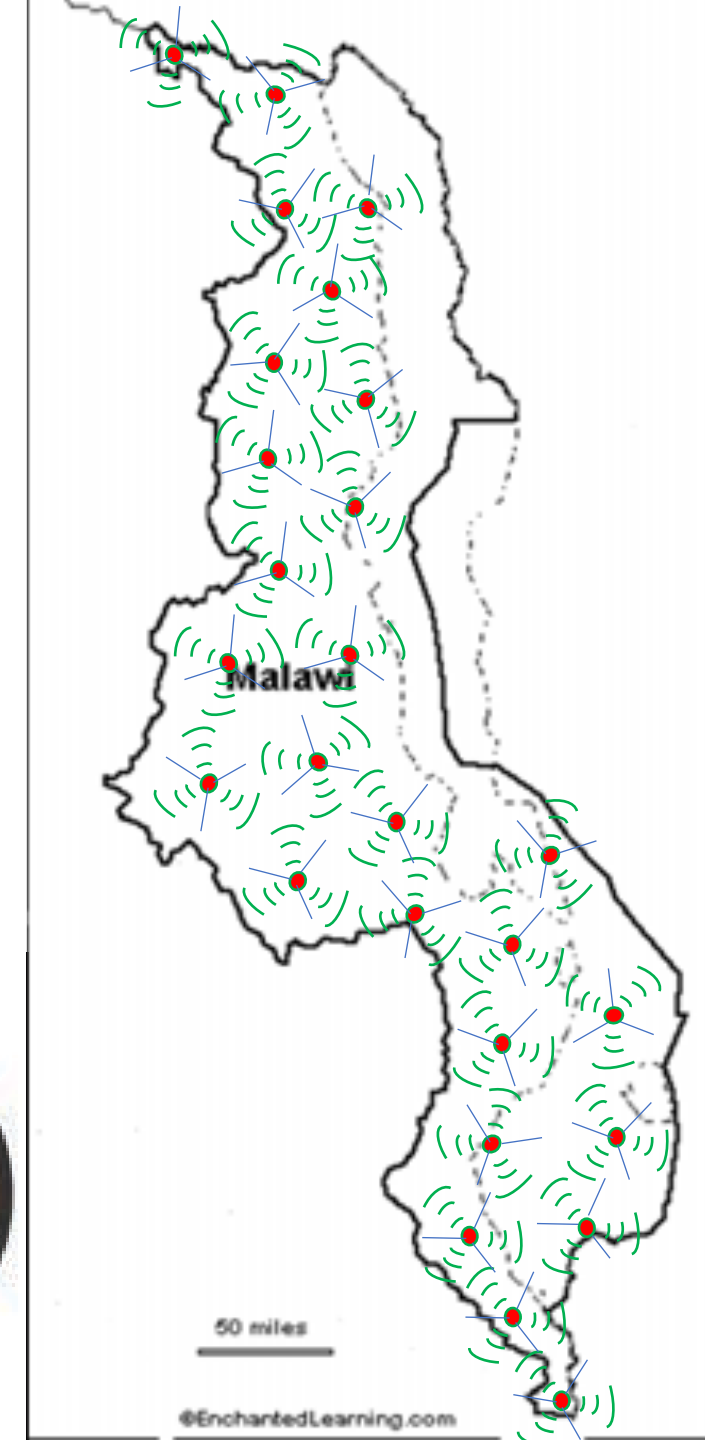
# The Malawi Education Future We Want to Attain Is Where...

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

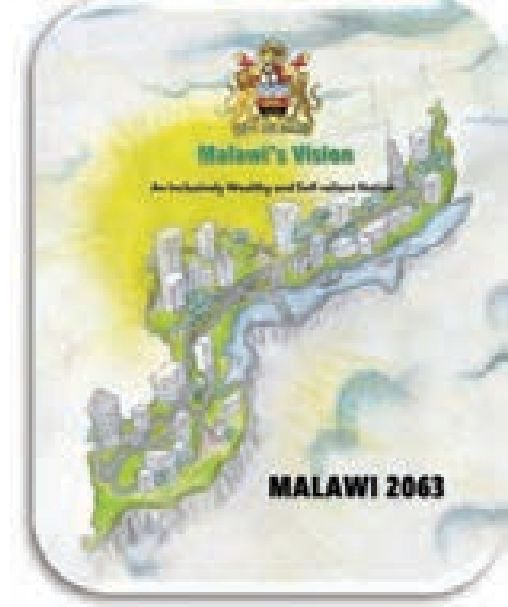
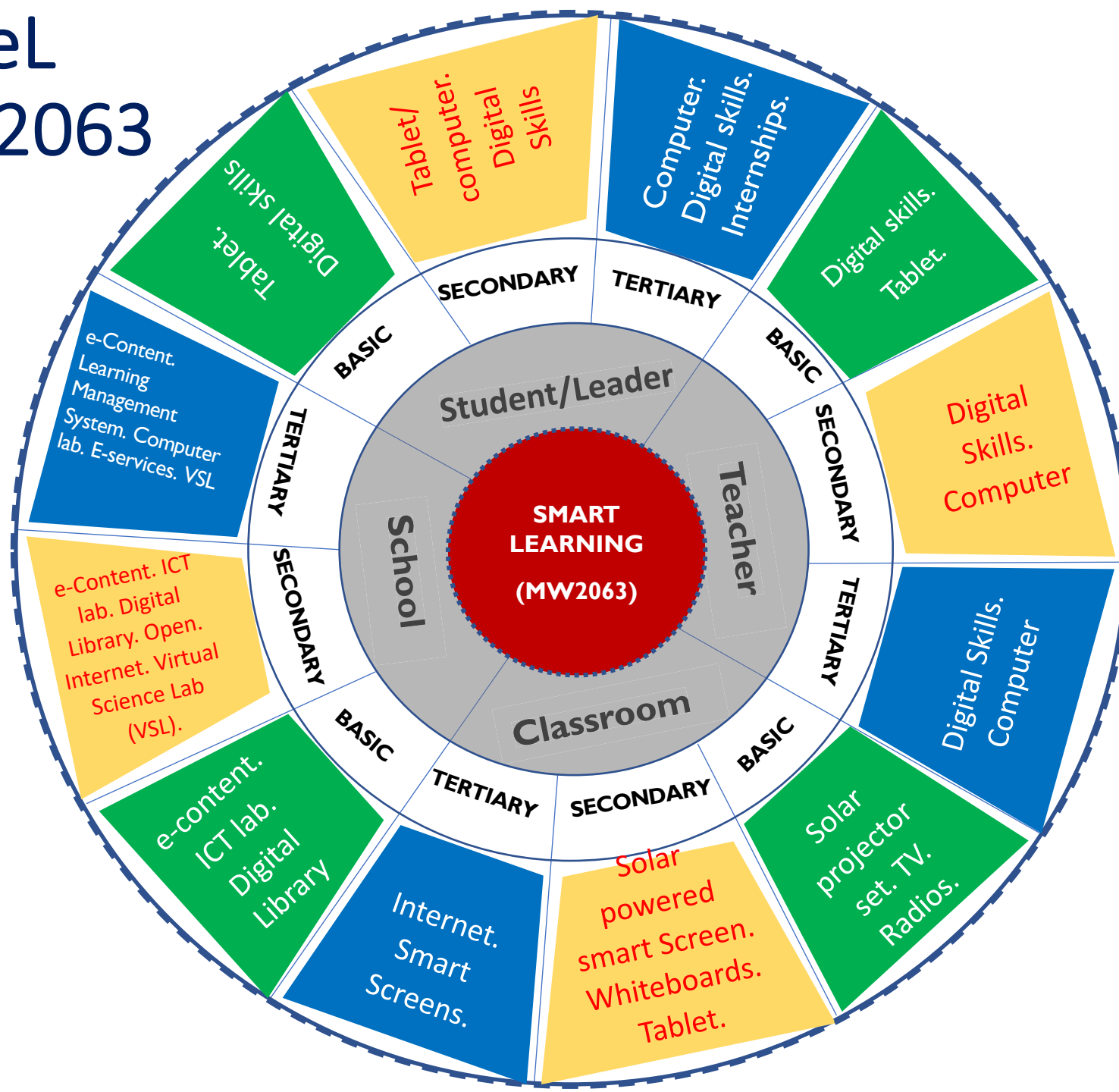
1. All children getting at least 12 years of education.
2. More youths and adults equipped with relevant skills acquired through open and flexible education system
3. All learners and teachers accessing and using affordable digital devices and the internet for needed for education
4. Schools and classrooms 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**



**Smart Schooling**



# ODeL @MW2063



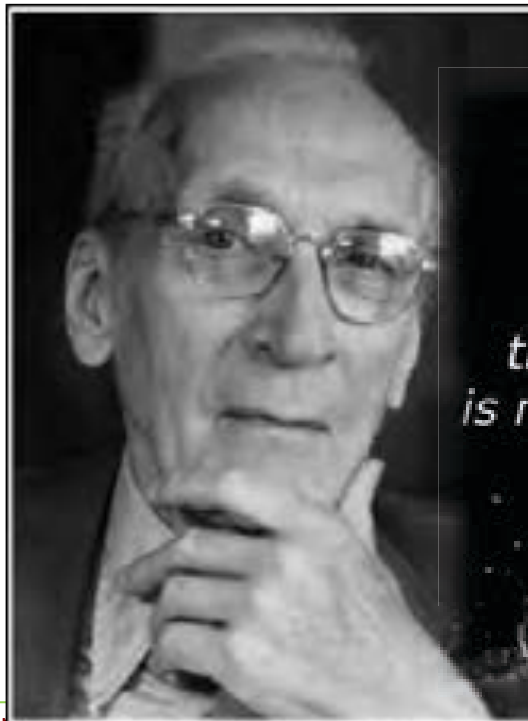


# Let “The Conversation” Begin.



- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

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Distance and e-  
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**IS CHANGE**  
that prepares  
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the Future



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is not what it used to be.*

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