

# MALAWI'S PRESENTATION

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## ODL IN MALAWI

- Began before independence in 1964 by external and private institutions
- Government introduced correspondence education in 1965-MCDE
- Growth from 1000 learners in 1965 to 150,000 by 1998
- The Government used distance learning for primary, secondary and tertiary education

## USE OF ODL IN MALAWI

- To:
- Provide education and training to Malawi citizens at all levels
- Increase access to education and training
- Respond to educational and training needs of various sectors of the Malawi economy
- Promote lifelong learning
- Ensure quality in instructional design and delivery
- Educational support to conventional systems

## CURRENT MAIN AREAS WHERE ODL IS USED

- **PCAR** (Standard 1- Tikwere radio programmes)
- **Secondary** education-open schooling, distance learning and support to conventional learning
- **Tertiary** education-primary by DTED and secondary school teacher education by DCE
- Orientation of conventional school teachers to ODL practices by MCDE
- Other courses: Mzuzu University is developing some courses
- Training of frontline workers (e.g., HIV/AIDS, gender and sexual reproductive health), by Ministry of Information

## MEDIA USED IN COURSE DELIVERY

- PCAR programmes: radio with some print for teachers
- Secondary education: print and face-to-face instructions (where available audio and video materials supplement the two main media)
- Tertiary education: print and face-to-face
- Non-formal education: radio, print, face-to-face

## CHALLENGES

- Inadequate instructional designers for ODL materials for print and electronic
- Negative attitude to ODE by some members of the community
- Inadequate human and material resources
- Inadequate knowledge, skills and competences in ODL practices
- Unstable economic conditions that threaten budgetary allocations
- The scourge of HIV/AIDS that reduces staff in the education and other economic sectors

## FIVE PRIORITY AREAS FOR MALAWI

1. Quality assurance
2. Teacher development
3. Open/alternative schooling
4. E-learning
5. Educational use of mass media and ICTs

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- To meet Malawi's development needs through:
  - effective planning of Malawi's educational needs
  - provision of the desired and relevant educational products
  - adequate training of staff in education sector at all levels
  - Provision of adequate supervisory methods
  - Research and evaluation of educational products

## TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

- The teacher is the basis of education. Knowledge, skills and competences are changing on daily basis, especially with the modern ICTs. The teacher will constantly need to acquire new skills and competences to provide the required education for social, economic, technological and political development

## OPEN/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLING

- Conventional education is unable to provide equal opportunities for all. ODL will respect the right to education for everyone by:
  - Increasing access to education and training
  - Providing alternative means for those unable to access conventional education because of various reasons
  - Provide quality education and equal opportunity to education and training
  - Reduce teacher-centred learning and provide the learner with independence, which is good for personal development

## E-LEARNING FOR EDUCATION SECTOR

- Despite that Malawi has not yet developed its capability to use the WWW, many people today, especially those in urban areas have access to the internet. These people, if they want to learn, can use the system to enhance learning through reading, hearing, and watching at the same time interacting with fellow learners and teachers to make learning more meaningful and effective. The e-learning will increase the opportunity to access education and training, especially for life long learning, which the nation needs for development purposes.

## EDUCATIONAL USE OF MEDIA AND ICTS

- Mass media is a powerful tool for communication. The newspaper, radio and television are respected for reporting correct information, facts and truth. Use of the mass media can help deliver content more effectively as people are already motivated by it. Examples in Malawi: Ministry of Information's Distance Learning Project for frontline workers, and the *Nation on Sunday* paper which has a column for distance learning for Senior Secondary School subjects. ICTs, that is, internet, computer, with CD-ROMs and other media are becoming cost effective and popular. Malawi opts for this area to promote the use of mass media for education and training, having experienced positive results from Ministry of Information's project and the *Nation on Sunday* paper.

## COL'S ROLE IN MALAWI'S AGENDA

### PROVISION of:

- Technical support
- Opportunities for capacity building through human resource training in ODL practices
- Educational resources in relevant areas
- Equipment for course development, production and delivery
- Grants and other financial support
- Orienting to staff in ODE through visits to centres of excellence within the region, Africa and outside Africa
- Etc.

Thank you for  
watching and  
listening