



**Associate Prof. Joshua Valeta, the current chair of the Distance Education Association for Southern Africa (DEASA), is the inaugural Director of Open, Distance and e-Learning** in the Ministry of Education in Malawi. He is championing education transformation through open, distance and e-learning (ODEL) innovations. His work includes guiding the formulation and implementation of ODeL policies and strategies for equitably accessible and resilient education system. He leads a unique and transformative national scale tablet-enabled learning program to improve foundational learning outcomes, which will cover all public schools by 2029 in Malawi. He

is also a member of several donor and government funded education development programs covering basic, secondary and tertiary education. He is a member of the inaugural Global Reference Group for Technology for Education for Global Partnership for Education. He is Malawi's representative to the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa.

He has 21 years of experience in education and a unique combination of science, leadership and education training and practice. He worked at USAID Malawi as the Senior Education Specialist after serving as the ODeL Director for their higher education program. Prior, he managed the World Bank funded skills development program at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where he also served as Deputy Dean, and the inaugural ODeL Director. He still holds an Associate Professor position there. He has attended numerous leadership and management, and edtech trainings, including at Harvard, Cambridge, and Oxford, besides his Master and PhD degrees in Aquaculture Technology from University of Gent, in Belgium, and University of Malawi, respectively. Joshua plays a significant role in promoting education transformation to build human capital for Malawi's new vision, Malawi 2063, the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), Africa Agenda 63, and attainment of SDG4. He is driven by purpose, a trailblazer, and finds fulfillment in accelerating positive change in society, through innovation, technology and servant leadership.