



Three-pillar plan

Plan calls for the comprehensive development of Palestine

TDT | Manama
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The 'Peace to Prosperity' Plan proposed by Jared Kushner, senior adviser to US President Donald Trump, is based on three pillars.

The first one is to unleash Palestine's economic potentials while the second is to empower the Palestinian people. And the third pillar is all about enhancing the Palestine governance.

"You can't do one without the other two and you need to be doing all three at the same time in order to make this work," Mr Kushner said.

"We've built it based on a lot of the work that's been done in the past. We believe over time that we can double the GDP of the Palestinians, we can create over a million new jobs we can reduce the unemployment rate to single digits and we can reduce the poverty rate by 50 per cent.

"This is not an easy thing to do but it's something that can be implemented. We've had this peer-reviewed it extensively and we have invited everyone here and everyone throughout the world. We have released this publicly to give us their thoughts and feedback," he said.

With regard to the first pillar, the idea is to generate rapid economic growth and job creation. This part of the plan will create a business environment that provides investors with confidence that their assets will be secure by improving property rights, the rule of the law, fiscal sustainability, capital markets and anti corruption policies.



HRH the Crown Prince with Mr Kushner, other dignitaries and officials at the workshop.

The plan will reduce constraints on Palestinian economic growth by Opening the West Bank and Gaza to regional and Global Markets. Major investments in transportation and Infrastructure will help the West Bank and Gaza integrate with neighbouring economies increasing competitiveness of Palestinian exports and reducing complications of transport and travel.

To complement these investments, this plan will also support steps to improve Palestinian cooperation with Egypt, Israel and Jordan with the goal of reducing regulatory barriers

to the movement of Palestinian goods and people.

The first pillar of the plan aims to construct essential infrastructure, promote private sector growth and strengthen regional development and integration.

The second pillar envisions to support Palestine people through education workforce development and improved quality of life.

This will support the development and training of Palestinian educators while expanding access to educational opportunities to underserved communities and demographics.



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MR KUSHNER

Other projects will help encourage educational reforms and innovation. By providing financial incentives to support the development of improved academic standards and curricula, this plan will help turn the West Bank and Gaza into a cen-

tre of educational excellence.

Apart from enhancing the quality of education, the plan also calls for implementing workforce strengthening programmes and transforming the Palestinian healthcare sector to improve the overall quality of life.

Enhancing Palestine governance forms the third pillar of the plan. This will help Palestinian public sector to provide the services and administration necessary for the Palestinian people to have a better future.

If the government realises the potential in investing in its people and adopting the foun-

dational elements identified in this plan, job growth will ensure and the Palestinian people and their economy will thrive.

Speaking at the workshop yesterday, Stephen A Schwarzman, the chairman and CEO of The Blackstone Group, said this was a sensible dream, which is going to come true.

"The changes won't happen overnight as we are talking about a place with 72 years of complexity, a place with no natural resource. But the dream can come true. There are countries like Singapore, Dubai in great examples to follow. We need to create a mechanism to

Meet the speakers at the workshop



Mohammed Al Sheikh

Mohammad Al Shaikh is a Saudi minister of state and a member of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs. Mohammad earned a bachelor's degree from Umm Al Qura University and a master's degree in law from Harvard University. Between 1998 and 2001, he was a lawyer for the World Bank in Washington, DC, and then went into private practice in New York between 2001 and 2003. He returned to Saudi in 2003 when he opened his own practice. In September 2012, he was designated as the Saudi Arabian Government's representative at the World Bank.



Mohamed Alabbar

Mohamed Alabbar is an Emirati businessman and global entrepreneur. He is best known as the founder and chairman of Emaar Properties, the leading developer of iconic assets such as the Burj Khalifa and the Dubai Mall, as well as the chairman of Eagle Hills, the Abu Dhabi based private investment and real estate development company. He is also the founder and director of noon.com, a game changing e-commerce ecosystem for the Arab world and largest GCC e-commerce company and the chairman of Americana Group, a pioneer in food industries.



Christine Lagarde

Christine Lagarde is a French lawyer and politician serving as the Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2011. She previously held various senior ministerial posts in the Government of France: she was Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry (2007-2011), Minister of Agriculture and Fishing (2007) and Minister of Commerce (2005-2007). Lagarde is the first woman to head the IMF. A noted anti-trust and labour lawyer, Lagarde was the first female chairman of the major international law firm Baker and McKenzie, between 1999 and 2004.



Dr Tomislav Mihaljevic

Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD, joined the Cleveland Clinic in 2004 as a cardiothoracic surgeon and went on to serve as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates before becoming CEO of the Cleveland Clinic. Growing up in Zagreb, Croatia, Dr Mihaljevic had just graduated from medical school when an unthinkable war broke out in 1991. After continuing his training in cardiac surgery in Zurich, he came to the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston in 1995. He then joined the Cleveland Clinic. He was renowned for specialising in robotically assisted cardiac surgeries.



Thomas J Barrack

Thomas J Barrack Jr is an American private equity real estate investor and the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital Inc. Barrack is a close friend of President Donald Trump and has represented Trump on television news segments. He also served as the chairman of the Presidential Inaugural Committee and was senior adviser to Trump's campaign. Barrack is a trustee at the University of Southern California and a member of the University Board of Pepperdine University. He has also served on the board of directors of Accor, Kerner, First Republic Bank, Continental Airlines, Korea First Bank and Megaworld Properties and Holdings.



Mike Wilkinson

Mike Wilkinson heads Bechtel's risk management group, part of the company's legal and risk management department. He became manager of risk management in January 2013 and is based in London. Mike joined Bechtel in 2004, and the following year became principal counsel for Bechtel's Mining and Metals global business unit, headquartered in Brisbane. He also provided legal support to other Bechtel business units active in Australia. Mike came to Bechtel with 15 years of legal expertise in major mining, civil, and power projects at law firms in Australia and the United Kingdom.