

**Kataeb Party Leader Samy Gemayel's Address
on the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of "Maison du Futur"
Friday, December 05, 2025**

* * * *

Amid bombardments, battles, and immense challenges, at a time when everyone else in Lebanon was consumed by conflict, war, and violence, a group of individuals led by former President Amine Gemayel stood apart. They analyzed, documented, and worked constructively to propose solutions for the country's future. Fifty years after the founding of "Maison du Futur," we pledge to continue this work with renewed energy and to contribute at every stage of Lebanon's history to lay the foundation for a better future.

Regarding the appointment of former Ambassador Simon Karam to lead the Lebanese delegation in negotiations with Israel, it is worth recalling that 43 years ago, during the Israeli occupation, former President Gemayel took the same courageous decision to enter negotiations in order to liberate Lebanese territory. What became known as the "May 17 Agreement" was, in fact, an agreement for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon.

We regret that some have since exploited the May 17 Agreement for narrow domestic political purposes. In reality, that agreement was far more constructive than the current ceasefire and maritime border arrangements, despite the occupation and the campaigns of vilification and distortion that followed.

Had everyone supported and upheld the agreement back in 1982, Lebanon's tragedy might have ended decades ago, and the country could be thriving today alongside the rest of the Arab world. Unfortunately, it took 43 years to return to the same steps, negotiations, and decisions. We hope that today we have the courage to see them through: to restore the State, assert Lebanon's sovereignty, consolidate weapons under State authority, and close the southern front.

Since 1969, Lebanon has endured crises, and our children have grown up amid war and instability. It is time to ensure that the next generation does not experience bloodshed or feel compelled to emigrate because of Lebanon's vulnerability. Our goal remains clear: to build lasting peace. I recall former President Gemayel's

words at the beginning of his term: “Give us peace, and take what amazes the world.”

Today, in 2025, from “Maison du Futur” and on behalf of former President Gemayel, we affirm that once peace is restored, Lebanon possesses the natural resources, human talent, and strategic advantages to become an advanced economic state. By working together and supporting the President’s efforts to consolidate arms and resolve the crisis in the south, we can build the Lebanon we envision. This is the role of MDF: to think strategically and plan for the long term. This is the responsibility of the new generation.

In conclusion, we salute ex-President Gemayel, who began his journey defending Lebanon on the front lines. He is a thoughtful, courageous, and steadfast man who has always prioritized Lebanon’s interests. He has dedicated his life, his health, his family, and even his son’s life in service of the country.