

## **His Excellency Former Prime Minister Najib Mikati' Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Middle Eastern Medical Geriatric Conference**

AZM Cultural Center, Mina-Tripoli, Lebanon

Thursday, 12 April, 2018

### **Distinguished Guests,**

I am delighted to welcome you all you at the Fifth Middle Eastern Medical Geriatric Conference on “the Latest Challenges & Development of the Elderly People and Dementia Diseases”. Many of you have travelled from different countries to be present at this important meeting. The conference brings together experts from different university hospitals across Europe and the Arab world to discuss concrete issues related to the medical, human and social impact of Dementia on elderly people.

This medical conference will not only focus on the scientific cause's symptoms and treatment of Dementia but will also focus on the crucial importance of the human and psychological aspects of this disease among elderly people.

### **Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Each one of us is concerned with Elderly people and all spiritual and religious traditions value the importance of taking holistic care of elderly people within their own family surrounding, on top of medical proper care that cannot compensate the outcome and benefits of one's family support.

This holistic care is the least we can offer to our elderly who sacrificed their life for each one of us. Hence, our Association, Azm & Saade, collaborates with the Social Services NGO “Dar Al Ajaza” in Abu Samra, Tripoli to support their noble mission in ensuring proper & expert care services for vulnerable elderly people in Tripoli and North Lebanon.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

I cease this opportunity to state that “Lebanon is our identity and that Lebanese cultural identity is allied to its Arab surrounding”. We as Lebanese must preserve our relationship and connection to our natural surrounding “The

Arab World”, which we share our common values and interests with and Lebanon will only recover when our region is politically and socially stable and at peace.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

During each election season, we hear slogans and promises raised every day, and here I ask you: Can you rely on a corrupted person claiming to reform? Can you count on an illusionist for a real and positive change? Do you bet on those who have previous experience in escalating civil strife to protect national civil peace? Can you trust those who change their political pillars for nominal personal interests?

We, have always been here, our centrist school of thought is built on strong and stable foundations and its mission is dedicated towards serving the national interest of our country.

Our objectives are to safeguard our country’s stability and to improve the wellbeing of our society which, can only be achieved through education, practice and economic development.

**Distinguished Guests,**

I would like to conclude by again welcoming you in Tripoli and thanking you all for participating at this conference. I wish you all a very successful conference, and I hope that the Fifth Middle Eastern Medical Geriatric Conference recommendations can be nationally adopted and formulated into public policies and integrated into national programs to serve and improve the wellbeing of the elderly society.

Thank You,