

## Keynote Speech

### Dear Haramaya (Alemaya) 1985 Family,

Good morning to you all.

It is my great pleasure to stand before you today and deliver this keynote speech on behalf of the President of Haramaya University, **Dr. Jemal Yusuf**. He truly wished to be here with you, but due to overlapping commitments, he could not make it. He sends his warm greetings and heartfelt appreciation to each of you.

Seeing all of you gathered here is an honor beyond words. It has been **over 40 years** since the bond between you and Haramaya University was formed - a bond as mature as any fully grown man, like myself. No matter how many years pass, or how much you achieve, Haramaya (the mother) still sees all of you as her children.

Although I must admit, it is a bit emotional to see many of you today with grey hair... or even no hair at all! Quite different from the long, bold, beautiful **Afro styles** most of you proudly carried when you first joined the University. Time has its wonders.

Organizing such a reunion is not only a joyful moment - it is a revival of cherished memories. You have lived through countless ups and downs in life, but your successes are also **our successes**. Each achievement of yours is a reflection of the strong foundation built at Haramaya.

You are the living proof that Haramaya did more than educate.

It shaped leaders.

It shaped thinkers.

It shaped citizens with courage, integrity, and resilience.

And for that, we - your university - stand proud.

Today, Haramaya University - one of Ethiopia's recognized research universities - is working hard to **prepare the ground** for its transformation into an **autonomous** - stronger, more visionary, and more globally connected **university**. In this journey, the role of alumni engagement is more critical than ever. Organized alumni communities, such as your distinguished **1985 batch**, are central pillars for this transformation.

We deeply appreciate the initiative and effort you have made to reunite after so many years. Haramaya - your origin of professionalism - has missed you greatly.

**Dear alumni,**

Haramaya has missed you - deeply.

Your happiness, your wisdom, your mentorship, your presence.

And so, on behalf of **Dr. Jemal Yusuf**, I extend a warm and heartfelt invitation:

**Come home.**

Return to your university.

Join us this year for the **2018 Grand Graduation Ceremony**.

Let today's students see the giants upon whose shoulders they stand.

As you have carried Haramaya in your hearts all these years, today Haramaya opens its arms wide to welcome you back.

Thank you.

May the bond you share continue to inspire generations to come.

And may the spirit of the class of 1985 shine even brighter in the years ahead.

Join the HUAA

We are excited to celebrate **75 years of excellence at Haramaya University! In 2027(Next Year)**

Be part of our Diamond Anniversary program and share this historic moment.