THE CANARA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (Regd.)

Registered under Trade Unions Act, 1926 at Mumbai.

(Affiliated to AIBOC)

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"A calm amidst every storm, a beacon in every battle and a brother in every struggle — your legacy will forever remain our guiding light."

Dear Canpals,

There are farewells…!

And then there are farewells that leave behind a silence so deep that even words hesitate to enter.

There are retirements…!

And then there are moments that cannot be described by the turning of a calendar. They become chapters that future generations will speak of with reverence, gratitude and pride.

Today is one such day.

Our beloved **Senior Vice President Shri. Rama Prasad Anna** lay down his official responsibilities in our beloved Mother Bank. He also concludes an illustrious chapter of selfless service as a Trade Union Leader, which is a great chapter that has inspired thousands of officers, strengthened our Canpal Family and enriched the very soul of our Mighty CBOA. While the calendar may call it a retirement, our hearts know better. It is the conclusion of a remarkable era defined by conviction, compassion, courage and character.

As I sit down to write this tribute, my mind is filled with countless memories, but my heart is overwhelmed by emotions.

How does one bid farewell to a person who never felt like a colleague, but always like an elder brother?

How does one thank a leader whose every decision carried the weight of responsibility but whose every interaction carried the warmth of affection?

How does one describe a personality who never chased recognition, yet became synonymous with respect?

Some people spend an entire lifetime building careers but, a rare few spend their lifetime building people. **Rama Prasad Anna built people.** He built confidence in the uncertain, courage in the fearful and hope in moments of despair. He built unity when divisions threatened to emerge. Above all, he built an unshakeable belief that ***when good people stand together with honesty and conviction, no challenge is insurmountable.***

His contribution towards our Mother Bank and Mighty CBOA cannot be quantified through numbers. It lives in the *confidence of every young officer whom he encouraged*, in the smiles of countless families whose anxieties were eased because someone fought for their justice and in every Canarite who discovered that leadership is not about commanding others but about serving them with humility.

Looking back today, I can feel that God had His own plans when He brought this remarkable soul among us. For many, he was a **Trade Union Leader**! For many more, he became a **Mentor**! For several, he was an **Elder Brother**! To countless young officers, he became the **reassuring voice** that reminded them never to lose hope! And for those fortunate enough to work closely with him, he became **family**!

There is an old saying which states that, *"People may forget what you said. They may forget what you did. But they never forget how you made them feel."* Rama Prasad Anna made people feel protected, heard, valued and that they were never alone. That is why this farewell feels deeply personal. We are not merely saluting a Trade Union leader. We are expressing gratitude to someone who became an inseparable part of our lives.

History often remembers the victories of great leaders. But only those who walk beside them truly know the price of those victories. Every successful defence representation by Rama Prasad Anna has its unseen nights of anxiety. Every smile on the face of many of our Canpals often begins with the silent efforts, sleepless nights and strong determination of Rama Prasad Anna **who chose to carry the burden so that others could walk a little lighter.**

Many of us saw him presiding over meetings with remarkable composure. Many witnessed him speaking with clarity, conviction and confidence. Many admired the respect he commanded wherever he went. But, only a fortunate few like me witnessed **the man behind the leader.** We saw the countless hours he invested before every defence representation. We witnessed him studying every circular, every regulation, every policy, every issue affecting officers, not because it was expected of him, but because he believed that every representation made on behalf of a Canpal deserved preparation, sincerity and credibility.

He never entered a discussion carrying assumptions. He entered carrying facts. He never demanded respect. He earned it. That is why, ***everyone acknowledged his integrity, which was his identity***.

He taught us that ***credibility is a leader's greatest currency***. Positions can be conferred, power can be delegated, authority can be transferred but, credibility must be earned every single day. ***My beloved Rama Prasad Anna earned credibility, over an entire lifetime.***

There are some people whose presence reduces anxiety even before they utter a single word. Rama Prasad Anna possessed that rare gift. Young Canpals who approached him with hesitation, returned with confidence. Senior Canpals who approached him with concerns, returned with clarity. Families who had never met him personally spoke his name with affection because, they knew someone was standing guard over the dignity and welfare of their loved ones. That is not leadership. **That is guardianship.** He felt the pain of every Canpal who faced injustice. His heart never became immune to the difficulties of others. Perhaps that is why our Canpals trusted him so completely. They knew they were speaking not to an office bearer, but to an **elder brother.**

Providence was indeed kind to our Mighty CBOA when it gifted us a leader like Rama Prasad Anna.

> *At every crossroads, he became our compass!*
>
> *During every crisis, he became our shield!*
>
> *When uncertainty surrounded us, he stood as our lighthouse!*
>
> *When emotions ran high, he remained calm amidst the storm!*
>
> *When confidence weakened, he became our strength!*
>
> *And even when victories arrived, he remained the embodiment of humility!*

Every generation of CBOA has produced capable office bearers. But every generation also remembers one or two personalities who quietly shaped future leadership. Rama Prasad Anna belongs to that distinguished league. From him, many among us learnt organisational discipline, patience, humility and how to disagree respectfully. Without realising it, he became a **living classroom.**

Mention "**Rama Prasad**" and Canpal across circles instantly associate the name with trust, dignity, wisdom and brotherhood. That is perhaps the ***greatest honour any leader can receive***.

Today, as we witness his superannuation, one thought repeatedly echoed in my heart. How fortunate and blessed I have been to work alongside him, learn from him and be guided by him. God has been extremely kind enough to gift me with the invaluable companionship of such a remarkable person and the solid affection of a loving elder brother.

For Rama Prasad Anna, **Canara Bank** was not merely an employer. It was, and will always remain, the **Mother Bank**. He wore the badge of Canara Bank with pride. He defended its reputation with conviction. He celebrated its achievements with genuine joy. He carried its values with unwavering commitment. Even while representing the legitimate aspirations of officers, his love for our Mother Bank became even stronger.

He often reminded us that our responsibility as Trade Union leaders was not merely to safeguard the interests of officers but to safeguard the future of our Mother Bank that had given all of us an identity. He believed that management and employees were not opponents seated across the table, but ***partners seated around the same table, working towards a common purpose.***

There are moments in every association when one individual silently holds together hundreds of emotions, without making noise, without seeking appreciation and without expecting acknowledgement. **Rama Prasad Anna was that silent binding force for CBOA**. Like the thread that holds together a garland without ever becoming visible itself, like the foundation beneath a magnificent building that remains hidden but carries the entire structure, like the roots of an ancient banyan tree that quietly nourish generations, **He stood quietly.** Others around him stood confidently because, "**Rama Prasad Anna is there"**.

Time has its own rhythm. Every sunrise is followed by sunset and every beginning eventually reaches its conclusion. Yet there are some sunsets that leave behind colours so magnificent that the sky remains beautiful long after the sun has disappeared. Rama Prasad Anna's retirement is one such sunset. He may be stepping away from official responsibilities. But the colours of his life like the values he cherished, the principles he defended, the relationships he nurtured and the dreams he inspired will continue to illuminate CBOA for decades to come.

Today, as we celebrate the remarkable journey of our beloved **Rama Prasad Anna**, we are reminded that **while careers have a concluding chapter, legacies never do**.

Anna, on behalf of the entire Canpal Family and also the lives you have touched, I bow my head in gratitude.

Thank you for every sacrifice.

Thank you for every lesson.

Thank you for every word of encouragement.

Thank you for every battle fought with courage and dignity.

Thank you for proving that leadership is not about standing above people, but standing beside them.

Above all, thank you for being our Elder Brother.

As you walk through the doors of our beloved Mother Bank for the last time as an employee, remember this: You are not walking away from us. You are walking into history, which will remember your integrity. CBOA will remember your leadership. Canara Bank will remember your commitment.

And we...

We will remember your heart!

I conclude with the words that every Canpal wishes to tell you today:

Your footprints are now our path!
Your principles are now our compass!
Your dreams are now our mission!
Your legacy is now our responsibility!

Salute to the General.

Respect to the Gentleman.

Farewell to the Legend.

Rama Prasad Forever!

CBOA Forever!

And from the deepest corner of my heart, not merely as a colleague, not merely as a fellow office bearer, but as your younger brother... **I will miss you, Anna!**

You care for the Bank and CBOA cares for you!

Flaw-Free Banking! Fraud-free Bank!

Discipline in CBOA! Development in Canara Bank!

Yours Sincerely,



RAVI KUMAR K
General Secretary
Canara Bank Officers' Association