

## FAREWELL SPEECH OF HCJ N.V. RAMANA AT DHC

1) Frankly speaking, I'm searching for words to express my gratitude, for the platitudes, spoken about me on behalf of the Bar as well as Bench. But, all I can say, is that they have been very generous in saying all nice things about me in their respective speeches. This occasion reminds me of a quotation,

***"Don't be sad because you are saying goodbye,  
you should be happy, because  
you have memories with you, that you will cherish".***

2) I strongly believe in destiny and have utmost faith in God. Otherwise, my journey from a tiny remote village to the capital of the country is hard to imagine. I was born in a small village called Ponnabaram in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh to Late Sri Nuthalapati Ganapathi Rao and Smt. Sarojini. I am the youngest among three siblings. My father was an agriculturist. I completed my schooling from an elementary school in the remote village and later graduated from Nagarjuna University. My parents made several sacrifices to support me in their own way.

3) I am bold enough to admit that I have entered into the legal profession 'by chance' and not 'by choice'. Initially, I started my practice at Vijaywada, but later shifted my practice to Andhra Pradesh High Court, as my father was very particular about it. I was

the first generation Advocate in my family and I had come across several problems and challenges, I have ~~faced them~~ <sup>those challenges</sup> with lot of positive attitude and embraced all the challenges that came my way and strengthened myself.

4) I am thankful to all those people and situations that I had to face in my early life as a result, I have developed a clear perspective of the world and which helped me in the engineering process of trouble shooting. In fact, I believe that I am a judge, who possesses a healthy measure of common sense, which I apply in dispensation of justice. I always believed that the ultimate purpose of justice delivery system is to impart justice to the common man who comes to the court with his grievance and I have a lot of contentment and happiness ~~as~~ as a judge. I am successful in my Endeavour.

5) On September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013, when I was assigned the onerous responsibility to head this premier institution – it was altogether a new experience for me. In a sense, everything, that I have come across here, is different from what I had experienced as Advocate and Judge because the kind of litigation that we come across and adjudicated in Andhra Pradesh High Court is completely different because of the social, economical, geographical differences between both the places.

6) In dispensation of justice, law does not operate in a vacuum or void it draws substance, sustenance from the social, operational jurisdiction. This makes it imperative to have a fair knowledge of society that you are called upon to serve. In Andhra Pradesh, majority of people depend upon agriculture – they rarely approach the court of law because of economic and other social reasons. Further, the kind of litigation is in the nature of challenging the legality and validity of the Executive orders, land-related matters and traditional civil and criminal litigation.

7) Whereas in Delhi, a cosmopolitan city and capital of the country, the common man being educated is well aware of his rights and duties and have a lot of exposure on different aspects of life. The kind of public interest litigation, human rights issues, etc. even the commercial litigation is also one of its kind here. But, there is no difference in the basic values of people. They have the same love, truth and reverence in their heart. In the short span of about five months, I have developed an emotional rapport and bondage of oneness of everlasting strength. I never missed my home town and, in fact, Delhi has become my second home.

8) The Bench and the Bar are the trustees of the legal system. And, the real beneficiaries are the people of India, who have an inalienable right under the Constitution to be provided with justice efficiently and effectively. This responsibility lies both with

the Bench and the Bar. Credit for a good judgment will not alone go to the Judge, but equally to the lawyers, because the assistance at the Bar is directly proportionate to the quality of judgment rendered by the Judge. To me, the combination of healthy Bar and an upright Bench alone can assure speedy dispensation of justice. The relationship, that exists between the Bench and the Bar, cannot be compared with any other profession or walk of life. *It is unique!* A strong Bar is essential for the preservation of essential values of our society.

9) - The Delhi High Court Bar is empowered with ability, integrity, independence and known for their legal acumen and fearlessness. *Fearlessness is the hall mark of the legal fraternity.* The superior Bar of this Court welcomed me, and, *I felt*, a genuine warmth. The most important aspect, that attracted me, is their effective interaction with the Bench in adjudicating the complex legal issues. I have learnt a lot from the Bar – not only from the seniors, but also from the young advocates. The members of the Bar are hardworking, their devotion to the task, feeling of joy and fairness brings out the maximum output. Because of the clear, scholarly, righteous minds at the Bar and the Bench, the Delhi High Court is put on the highest pedestal in the Indian judiciary. I would like to quote the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. and, I quote –

***"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable ....***

***Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."***

My experience with the Bar of this Court and District Courts have been exceedingly well. I would only say it's all your graciousness that you not only welcomed me, but also accepted and greeted me like an elder member of the family. I would always remain indebted to you for this and these memories will remain in my heart forever.

10) The legal fraternity in the country looks at the Delhi high Court, which is known for its path-breaking judgments. The Court, which is always ahead in all issues – whether it is human rights, environment issues or adoption of rapid technological development. This Court is the first of its kind in the country to implement information and communication technology in judiciary effectively, as in this era of globalization and rapid technological development, we cannot afford to lag behind.

11) The success of a team depends upon the performance of the whole team. I feel the administration of judicial system is a team work and the credit for smooth functioning goes to each and every individual of this institution.

12) As the Chief Justice of this Court, I assert that I tried to give my best to this institution for speedy dispensation of justice. Though I wanted to take up several projects, it couldn't be done due to my short tenure in this Court. A chapter in my life is completed, perhaps the most important. But the greatest happiness lies in the fact that it couldn't have been more memorable.

13) There is no doubt, I have had the role of lifetime – a privilege beyond description to labour the cause of justice along with my eminent brothers and sisters. I express my profound thanks for the warmth, I have always felt as part of this Court. I cannot ignore the cooperation and assistance given to me by my esteemed colleagues. Although it is not possible to name everyone due to paucity of time, yet I would like to thank my brother Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed, Justice Pradeep Nandrajog. The Chairperson of Mediation Committee, Justice Gita Mittal, who has taken utmost care of smallest of the smallest things. I thank Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice G.S. Sistani, who made every endeavour to keep me and my family comfortable in all respect, when we came to Delhi. I would also like to thank Justice Manamohan and Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw, with whom I have shared the Bench.

14) My speech will be incomplete, if I don't say a few words about my family ... Because of my irregular working hours, my family

has always been at a receiving end – whether I was at the Bar or on the Bench. They supported me in each and every endeavour of mine.

- o We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves. I remember the sacrifices made by my parents and I'm indebted to them. I am fortunate to have my mother present here today and for her, it's yet another emotional moment.
- o Fortunately, I am married to someone, who is not only a good companion, but an excellent parent. My wife, Sivamala, has accepted my pre-occupation at all times with grace. I have no option, but to admit – It's only because of her omnipresence, my daughters never complained about my absence – be it at home, their school, college or any social functions.
- o My two daughters, Dr. Sri Bhuvana and Sri Tanuja, have all along been my source of support and inspiration. But for their unconditional support and adjustment, I would not have been in a position to discharge my duties effectively.

**15)** A Court is much more than its Judges. Without the assistance of the Registry, Registrars and other Administrative Officers, Court Master, Private Secretary and other personal staff, we judges would be quite incapable of administering justice on any

terms. I take this opportunity to make a special mention, about efficiency and good management of court system here, and the credit for this goes to each and every employee of this Court. I wish to record my deep sense of appreciation for demonstrating such level of efficiency. I convey my appreciation through the Registrar General, to all the employees of this Court, especially the staff deployed with me as well as the protocol staff.

16) I would also like to tell them that ***"Just because something isn't happening for you right now, doesn't mean that it will never happen"***. Self belief is the most important feature in any successful venture. Keep up your hard-work and always remember 3D's ***"Dedication"*** ***"Devotion"*** and ***"Determination"*** as with this, you can definitely reach your goal.

17) I bid you an affectionate farewell and, I hope, that the Bench and the Bar of this Court take the institution to a new dimension where people pay more respect to judiciary and have more faith in the system of administration of justice. I would like to conclude by requesting you to continue your best efforts to ensure that the glory of this temple of justice remains intact and the consumer of justice does not get disappointed.

***"Be Well, Do Good Work And Keep In Touch"***

**\*\*\* THANK YOU ONE AND ALL \*\*\***

**JAI HIND**

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