

# **September 10, 2024**

National Stock Exchange of India Limited	BSE Limited
Exchange Plaza	Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers
Bandra Kurla Complex	Dalal Street
Mumbai - 400051	Mumbai – 400 001
Symbol: EQUITASBNK	Scrip Code : 543243

Dear Sir

Sub: Disclosure under Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 - Summary of Proceedings of the Eighth Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited ('the Bank')

In continuation to our intimation dated August 13, 2024 and pursuant to Regulation 30 read with Schedule III of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, please find enclosed the summary of proceedings of the AGM of the Bank held today at 11:00 Hours (IST) through Video - Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) enclosed as **Annexure - I** and the speech delivered by Chairman and MD & CEO at the AGM as **Annexure - II and III** respectively.

Kindly take the above information on your records.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

For Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

N Ramanathan Company Secretary

Encl: a/a





S. No.	Particulars	Details	
1	Date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)	September 10, 2024	
2	Total number of shareholders as of cut-off date i.e.,	4,56,018	
	September 03, 2024		
3	Number of Shareholders who attended the AGM:		
	• Promoters and Promoter Group:	No promoters. Hence not applicable	
	• Public:	107	

# Summary of Proceedings of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited held on September 10, 2024 at 11:00 Hours

The Eighth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (Bank) was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 11:00 Hours (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC)/ Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with the General Circular No.14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 and subsequent circulars issued in this regard, the latest being Circular No. 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023, issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Circular bearing reference no. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 05, 2023 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 07, 2023 issued by the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and as per the applicable provisions of the Companies Act 2013, the Rules made thereunder and in accordance with the Secretarial Standard on General Meetings ("SS-2") issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India ("ICSI"). The deemed venue of the AGM was the Registered Office of the Bank.

## Directors and Key Managerial Personnel present in person at the Registered Office of the Bank:

- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Independent Director and Part-time Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Stakeholders Relationship Committee of the Board
- 2. Mr. Narayanan N R, Independent Director and Chairman of Credit Committee of the Board and Committee for Review of High Value Stressed Assets
- 3. Mr. K S Sampath, Independent Director and Chairman of Audit Committee of the Board
- 4. Mr. P N Vasudevan, MD & CEO and Chairman of Review Committee for Identification of Wilful Defaulters
- 5. Mr. N. Sridharan, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- 6. Mr. N Ramanathan, Company Secretary (CS) & Compliance Officer

#### Directors present through VC:

7. Prof. N Balakrishnan, Independent Director (From Bengaluru, India)





- 8. Mr. Navin Puri, Independent Director and the Chairman of Business Committee and Customer Service Committee of the Board (From Mumbai, India)
- 9. Mr. Ramesh Rangan, Independent Director and Chairman of the Risk Management Committee of the Board (From Chennai, India)
- 10. Ms. Geeta Dutta Goel, Independent Director and Chairman of Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board (From Delhi, India)
- 11. Mr. Ramkumar Krishnaswamy, Independent Director and Chairman of Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board (From Mumbai, India)

Prof. Samir Kumar Barua, Independent Director and the Chairman of Policy Formulation Committee and Special Committee for monitoring High value frauds and Dr. Gulshan Rai, Independent Director and the Chairman of IT Strategy Committee and Outsourcing Committee had expressed their inability to join the meeting due to personal exigencies and their absence was taken note of by the Chairman.

# Other representatives present in person at the Registered Office of the Bank

- 1. M/s. Varma & Varma, Chartered Accountants, Joint Statutory Auditor represented by Ms. Rasiga Raghupathy.
- 2. M/s. ASA & Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants, Joint Statutory Auditor represented by Mr. G N Ramaswami & Mr. Sivaraman V.
- 3. M/s. Suri & Co., Chartered Accountants, Proposed Joint Statutory Auditor represented by Mr. M Sanjeev Aditya.
- 4. M/s. SR Srinivasan &Co., LLP, Secretarial Auditor for the Financial Year 2024-25 represented by CS S Rajendran.
- 5. M/s. Mohan Kumar & Associates, Scrutinizer for the AGM e-voting process represented by CS A Mohan Kumar

### Other representatives present through VC

6. M/s. B Ravi & Associates, Secretarial Auditor for the Financial Year 2023-24 represented by CS Dr. B Ravi (From Chennai, India)

A total of 107 Members attended the AGM which includes the Chairman, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the CS.

Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Part-time Chairman of the Board of the Bank, chaired the Meeting.





CS welcomed the Members and upon confirming the quorum, Chairman announced that sufficient quorum was present. Accordingly, Chairman declared that the meeting was properly constituted and called the meeting to order. Chairman welcomed the Members to the Eighth Annual General Meeting of "Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited" and then introduced the Directors, Key Managerial Personnel and other representatives present at the AGM.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee and Stakeholders Relationship Committee were present at the meeting. Chairman acknowledged the participation of the Joint Statutory Auditors, M/s. Varma & Varma, Chartered Accountants and M/s. ASA & Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants. He acknowledged the presence of M/s. Suri & Co., Chartered Accountants, who has been proposed to the members for appointment as one of the Joint Statutory Auditor. He further acknowledged the presence of M/s. B Ravi & Associates and M/s. SR Srinivasan &Co., LLP, the Secretarial Auditors for the FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively.

CS informed that the Statutory Registers and other requisite documents were available for inspection by Members electronically during the Meeting. He also informed that the proceedings were video recorded. Chairman informed that the Notice of the Eighth AGM and Annual Report along with the unqualified report of the Joint Statutory Auditors for the FY 2023-2024 were duly sent to all the Members through electronic means and were made available at the website of the Bank and considering the same, he informed that the Notice convening the 8th AGM of the Bank was taken as read.

Chairman then delivered his speech, and this was followed by an address by Mr. P N Vasudevan, MD & CEO of the Bank. Members who had registered themselves as speaker shareholders expressed their views and raised certain queries, which were responded to by the MD & CEO.

Followed by this, the Company Secretary informed the members that pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant Rules made thereunder, Regulation 44 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and SS-II, the Bank had provided the facility of remote e-voting to the Shareholders, which commenced on Saturday, September 07, 2024 (09:00 Hours IST) and concluded on Monday, September 09, 2024 (17:00 Hours IST), to cast their votes on the below mentioned items of business as proposed in the Notice of the Eighth AGM placed before the Members. It was also informed that the option to vote at the AGM was made available for the Members who have not cast their votes through remote e-voting.

Item No.	Particulars of Resolution	Type resolution (Ordinary/ Special)	of
1	To receive, consider and adopt the Audited financial statements of the Bank for the financial year ended March 31, 2024 and the reports of the Board of Directors and the Auditors thereon	Ordinary	
2	To declare Dividend for the financial year 2023-24	Ordinary	





3	To appoint a Director in place of Mr. Vasudevan P N (DIN: 01550885), who retires by rotation and being eligible, offers himself for reappointment	Ordinary
4	To appoint M/s. Suri & Co., Chartered Accountants (Firm registration number: 004283S) as one of the Joint Statutory Auditors of the Bank	Ordinary
5	Fixing of remuneration of Joint Statutory Auditors for the financial year 2024-25	Ordinary
6	Fixing Remuneration payable to Mr. Vasudevan P N (DIN: 01550885) as the Managing Director & CEO	Ordinary
7	Appointment of Mr. Narayanan Rajagopalan Nadadur (DIN: 07877022) as an Independent Director of the Bank	Special
8	Appointment of Mr. Keezhayur Sowrirajan Sampath (DIN: 07924755) as an Independent Director of the Bank	Special
9	Appointment of Mr. Ramkumar Krishnaswamy (DIN: 00244711) as an Independent Director of the Bank	Special
10	Re-appointment of Mr. Navin Puri (DIN: 08493643) as an Independent Director	Special
11	Issuance of Redeemable Unsecured Non-Convertible Debentures / Bonds / other debt securities on a private placement basis	Special
12	To approve the alteration of Articles of Association of the Bank	Special
13	Approval of Borrowing limits	Special

The Company Secretary further informed that M/s. Mohan Kumar & Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries represented by its Managing Partner, CS A Mohan Kumar has been appointed as the Scrutinizer for the e-voting process and upon receipt of the Scrutinizer's report, the results of the e-voting process will be announced to the stock exchanges and will also be made available in the Bank's website within the regulatory timelines provided.

The Company Secretary delivered the vote of thanks, and the Chairman declared the conclusion of the meeting. Followed by this, a time of 15 minutes was provided to those Members who have not voted earlier, to cast their votes through e-voting process at the Meeting. The Meeting concluded at 12:26 hours after the e-voting ended.

For Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited

N Ramanathan Company Secretary





# Chairman Speech

# Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you all to the Eighth Annual General meeting of Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd. As we navigate 2023-24, I am honored to begin my first year with Equitas and embark on this exciting journey with you, reflecting challenges, our commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

# Overview of the Global Economy

The global economic landscape has been characterized by significant volatility and uncertainties, posing challenges that have tested the resilience of nations and businesses. The United States and several large emerging markets and middle income economies displayed notable performance, driven by stronger-than-expected private consumption amid still-tight though-easing labour markets. In the USA, aggregate demand was supported by private consumption, with fiscal forecasts for CY 2025 estimated at 1.9% of GDP.

The Euro Area had the smallest upside growth surprise due to weak consumer sentiment and lingering high energy prices, with fiscal forecasts for CY 2025 at 1.5% of GDP. In China, the fiscal stance was mildly tighter than expected by 4.1 % of GDP, and inflation fell unexpectedly, driven by sharply lower domestic food prices and their pass-through effects on underlying core inflation. However, the road to sustained global economic recovery remains arduous, requiring concerted efforts from policymakers, businesses, and stakeholders to navigate the complexities and mitigate risks effectively.

# India's Positioning in the Global Context

Amid this challenging global environment, India has emerged as a shining beacon of hope and economic prowess. The Indian Economy gave an 8.2% real GDP growth for 2023-24 exceeding 8 % mark in 3 out of 4 quarters of FY 24 as compared to 7% growth in FY23, marking the third consecutive year of growth exceeding 7%. The current account has swung to a surplus in Jan-March'24 for the first time in 11 Quarters. Strong inflows have led to a sustained rise in foreign exchange reserves, which have hit a lifetime high of US\$ 645.58 Billion as of April 2024, providing a strong buffer against potential economic shocks and enhancing India's financial stability.

Meanwhile, the banking sector is also showing positive signs, with credit growth expected to be in the range of 14-14.5% for 2024-25 driven by broader growth across segments and increased capital expenditure. This credit growth is likely to further stimulate economic activities and investments. Despite potential challenges, banks are anticipated to maintain robust deposit growth of 12-13% yearon-year for 2024-25, indicating continued confidence in the banking sector, while providing a sufficient and stable funding base for future lending activities.

#### **Performance Highlights**

The financial year 2023-24 was a good one for the Bank. On a full year basis, the Bank registered a balance sheet growth of 30% and achieved a net profit after tax of ₹799 Crores in 2023-24, marking a 39% increase from 2022-23. Our asset quality improved, with Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) at 2.52% compared to 2.6% in 2022-23, and Net Non-Performing





# Chairman Speech

Assets (NNPA) at 1.12%, compared to 1.14% in 2022-23. The Bank has a Net Interest Margin (NIM) of 8.36%, ROA of 2% and ROE of 14.43% for 2023-24.

The Bank remains well-capitalized, with a Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 21.70%, as against the 15% regulatory requirement.

During the year, investments for the future were made mainly in new product segments like credit cards, personal loans and various remittance products under the AD1 license. Additionally, the Bank continues to invest in technology to create platforms that are scalable and adaptable.

#### Vision for the future

The Bank's current and future initiatives resonate with Equitas' mission to create "the most valuable bank for all stakeholders through happy employees" while seamlessly blending continuity and evolution, which is exemplified through our 'Now & Next' approach.

While the term 'Now' represents our long-standing commitment to financial empowerment, transparency, and tailored value propositions for underserved segments, 'Next' signifies our forward-thinking approach which is retail consumer focused and technology driven.

#### **Social Impact**

Since inception, your Bank has dedicatedly invested 5% of its net profit towards CSR initiatives through the Equitas Development Initiatives Trust (EDIT) and the Equitas Healthcare Foundation (EHF), focusing on health, education, upskilling, employment, and rehabilitation. Equitas Gurukul Schools aim to nurture and empower children by providing not only education but transforming them into responsible individuals.

During the year, we achieved an important milestone of inaugurating the Sringeri Sharada Equitas Hospital (SSEH) a joint venture with Sringeri Sharada Mutt. The Mutt generously provided land in Chennai for a hospital dedicated to cancer care. The hospital, managed by the Equitas Healthcare Foundation, aims to provide high-quality cancer care at affordable rates for economically weaker sections and lower-income households.

## **Expression of Gratitude**

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our outgoing Chairman, Mr. Arun Ramanathan, for his outstanding leadership at Equitas Small Finance Bank. His strategic guidance has been pivotal in navigating challenges and reinforcing our commitment to becoming a mass retail Bank, empowering unbanked and underserved communities, and making a positive impact on countless lives. On behalf of the entire ESFB team, we wish him luck as he pursues new endeavors.

Before I conclude, I must compliment Mr. Vasudevan MD and CEO of Equitas and all the officers and staff of the Bank for handling the challenges and opportunities that came by and delivered the best possible outcomes.



When you bank with us, you contribute towards a better society.



# Chairman Speech

I thank my fellow Directors for their focused guidance and unstinted dedication. I am grateful to all stakeholders for support, and encouragement. Thank you all for the trust you repose in us

Our success is a collective effort, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued stakeholders – our customers, employees, partners, and shareholders – whose trust and support have been the driving force behind our achievements. Your belief in our vision and your commitment to our shared goals have been instrumental in propelling us forward.

I am grateful to all of you and wish you all every happiness in life and every satisfaction in work as the future unravels.



# MD Speech

Good morning to all of you

Thank you for taking time out to be present with us today

I take immense pleasure in welcoming our New Chairman Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma. He has taken over from our previous Chairman Mr. Arun Ramanathan who retired on 25th of April, this year. Mr. Anil Kumar Sharma retired as an Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India in March 2023, with 37 years of experience.

I thank the Chairman for providing us a broad overview of the economy and the Bank's performance along with a few long term initiatives and important milestones crossed during the year.

At Equitas, we are driven by a mission to redefine banking and transform lives. We recognize the immense potential at the base of the economic pyramid, where domestic consumption growth outpaces GDP growth. We distinguish ourselves as one of the select multi-product bank actively engaged with this segment of the society.

Through a year of prudent investments in products, people, technology, and other initiatives to strengthen the Bank, we have continued creating value for our stakeholders as we build a stable, sustainable and scalable organization.

#### Now and Next

I would like to talk to you on what we have been for the past 7 years as a Bank as "Now" and how we see the Bank evolving in the next few years to come as "Next".

'Now and Next' captures the core of our transformation journey — from our current success, built on a foundation of fairness and transparency, to our future ambition of becoming a large retail bank focused primarily on the informal economy. 'Now', we are a successful small finance bank with 565 assets and 399 liability branches spread across 18 states, with customers across tier 1 to 6 towns. Our transition from a micro finance institution to a broad based retail bank today is guided by the philosophy of a stable business model, sustainable governance practices, and scalable service and product offerings. Our singular goal is to act as a bridge, mobilizing deposits from our mass and affluent depositors and using that to drive economic growth amongst people who are at the bottom of the pyramid. We enable financial empowerment of a large section of the society who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by the banking system

'Next' represents our ambition to transform from a small finance bank catering to the underbanked to a mass retail bank with a robust competitive edge in the segments we operate.

This evolution will broaden our funding sources by cultivating loyal depositors who view us as their primary bank. This, in turn, enables us to offer competitive lending rates and maintain our position as the preferred lender in our segments, even as competition intensifies.





# **MD** Speech

#### A Year of Consistent Performance

During the year 2023-24, our gross advances grew by 23% compared to the previous year to ₹34,337 Crore, while our total deposits surged by 43% to ₹36,129 Crore during the same period. Notably, our Current and Savings Accounts (CASA) contributed 32% to the total deposits, indicating a healthy deposit mix. As a result of a strong performance, our financial ratios showcased substantial improvements. The total Return on Assets (RoA) improved from 1.89% in 2022-23 to 2.00% in 2023-24, while the Return on Equity (RoE) rose to 14.43% for the same period. Additionally, our asset quality witnessed a considerable enhancement, with the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) standing at a pre-covid level of 2.52% as of March 31, 2024.

We continue to focus on expanding our Small Business Loan (SBL) portfolio, capitalising on the vast opportunities for secured funding among our microfinance customers as they graduate to SBL. In Vehicle Finance segment, we moderated our lending to new commercial vehicles and concentrated more on Used CV and Used Cars. Our strategic emphasis on building a high-quality Housing Finance book yielded positive results, with the GNPA in this segment being less than 1% as of March 31, 2024. Furthermore, the contribution from our Housing Finance portfolio improved from 10% to 12% with 46% growth in advance book.

On the liability front, our deposits rose by 43%, driven by a strong growth in retail term deposits. During the year, the Bank made concerted efforts to improve the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio, resulting in an improvement from 103.4% as of March 31, 2023 to 86.98% as of March 31, 2024.

We closed the year with a Profit after Tax (PAT) of ₹799 Crore, a 39% increase over the previous year.

## CSR Initiatives: The Bank's Commitment to Social Impact

Our approach to CSR is to transform the quality of life of the under-privileged by focusing on Healthcare, Education, and Employment. By increasing household incomes through skill development, job fairs for the youth, and reducing expenses via medical and vaccination camps, affordable healthcare services, and health awareness programmes, we are working to improve their financial stability.

During the year, we inaugurated the Sringeri Sarada Equitas Cancer cum Multi Speciality Hospital. This is a joint initiative between Equitas Healthcare Foundation and Sringeri Sarada Peetham. This is a 100-bed hospital offering high quality cancer care at extremely affordable cost, specifically targeted to the low income segments.

Our Equitas Birds Nest Programme, under which, we relocate pavement dwellers to houses and pay 6 months' rent on their behalf while parallelly improving their income earning capacity to sustain on their own after 6 months, has now transformed over 4,500 families.

Through our 8 schools, called Equitas Gurukul Matriculation Schools, we provide high quality English medium holistic education to about 7,000 children from low-income families. These are run by Equitas Development Initiatives Trust.



When you bank with us, you contribute towards a better society.



# **MD** Speech

# **Looking Ahead**

We remain thankful to our customers, shareholders, employees and all other stakeholders for their continued support to the Bank. Looking ahead, we remain determined in our mission to be the leading mass retail bank with the highest standards of corporate governance, fairness and transparency. We will continue to invest in technology, and focus relentlessly on operational excellence as we work towards delivering sustainable growth and creating lasting value for all our stakeholders.

With a shared belief of creating a valuable bank for all our stakeholders, we embark on the Next chapter, confident in our ability to empower millions and shape a brighter financial future.

Thank You.