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MoF Index

Women and financial government operations

Women in the United Arab Emirates have received substantial support from the nation's leadership, which has allowed them to participate and work shoulder-to-shoulder with men in various fields, especially the financial sector. Today, women hold several important leadership positions in the UAE's financial sector - from financial centre managers to businesswomen. Our universities are also witnessing a rise in the number of talented female students in various financial and business management disciplines.

Women do not differ from men when it comes to financial duties and efficient financial management. Excelling in this area requires knowledge, perseverance and a keenness for accuracy; qualities that perhaps tend to characterise women more than men.

The UAE has a wealth of female financial professionals across the board from executive managers, assistants, directors of financial management to consultants. And that's not counting the multitude of outstanding businesswomen and business leaders who have proven their entrepreneurial credentials and have had significant achievements.

The Ministry of Finance was one of the first ministries to place its trust in women. It adopted several initiatives to reduce gender gap and achieve gender balance in the government's financial operations, and assigned women to several vital positions. The Ministry of Finance had the first female Director of Financial and Administrative Affairs, as well as the first female Assistant Undersecretary of Financial Management, and enabled participation of women in implementing the federal budget and the management of the nation's treasury. These initiatives are a testament to the extraordinary trust the leadership of the Ministry of Finance puts in women.

I have no doubt that having H.E. Younis Haji Al-Khouri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, as a member of the Emirates Council for Gender Balance, has strengthened the efforts to achieve gender balance and allowed us to duly implement it in the ministry. This is evidenced by the ministry's ability to significantly reduce gender gap and achieve gender balance: out of the 258 employees of the ministry, 138 are women. That's 53.4% of the total number of employees!

Today, I speak to all of the ministry's employees and I urge them to arm themselves with knowledge, and embrace a culture and excellence, with a dedication to work, training and perfection. Women are partners in development, and it is expected of them to not only fulfil their professional duties, but the ones at home too, by prioritising and creating a balance between the tasks entrusted to them. And they should do so without losing focus, and by managing their time effectively to achieve the desired goals in the best possible manner.