



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Monthly Newsletter **March 2026**

# The Pulse of Finance



**Launch of the Federal General Budget Annual Report 2026 under the theme "Investing in People Securing the Future"**

**The "Retail Sukuk" Initiative Continues to Deliver Qualitative Results, Reflecting the Strength of the National Economy and the Resilience of the Financial Sector**

**The Government Financial Policy Coordination Council Holds its First Meeting for 2026**

**Launch of the First Phase of the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentives Programme**

# Launch of the Federal General Budget Annual Report 2026 under the theme “Investing in People Securing the Future”

**Maktoum bin Mohammed:**

**The Federal Budget will Accelerate Efforts to Achieve the Leadership’s Vision of Building a Sustainable Future Centred on Investing in People and Enhancing Quality of Life**

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has launched the Federal Budget Yearbook for 2026 under the theme “Investing in People Securing the Future,” providing a human-centred vision that places individuals at the core of every development decision, regardless of the pace of external developments and changes, underscoring the strength of the UAE’s financial system and its ability to continue supporting development efficiently.

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, said the UAE Federal Government Budget 2026 will accelerate efforts to realise the leadership’s vision of building a sustainable future that prioritises investing in people, enhancing quality of life, and reinforcing long-term financial sustainability.

Ministry of Finance launches **UAE Federal Government Budget Yearbook 2026** under the theme “Investing in People, Securing the Future”

- The yearbook highlights the key achievements and targets of national initiatives across vital sectors
- It tracks the evolution of the federal budget, expenditure priorities and the adoption of sustainable development initiatives
- The budget achieves financial balance and supports the country’s readiness to adapt to changes in the global economy

▲ <b>AED 92.4 billion</b> Federal Government Budget for 2026	▲ <b>29%</b> increase compared to 2025 budget
▲ <b>AED 30.8 billion</b> allocated to the public services sector	▲ <b>AED 16.9 billion</b> allocated to the education sector
▲ <b>AED 5.7 billion</b> allocated to the health sector	▲ <b>AED 3.7 billion</b> allocated to the housing sector
▲ <b>AED 1.4 billion</b> allocated to economic affairs	▲ <b>AED 33.9 billion</b> allocated to other sectors

## H.E. Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini: Sheikh Zayed's Values were Founded on a Strategic Vision Linking Human Development with Stability and Sustainable Growth

His Excellency Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini, Minister of State for Financial Affairs, stressed that Zayed Humanitarian Day is a significant national occasion to recall the values established by the late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in the fields of humanitarian work.

Al Hussaini noted that these values were built on a strategic vision linking human development with stability and sustainable progress, shaping Emirati humanitarian work into a comprehensive institutional approach driven by the principles of responsibility, solidarity and humanitarian cooperation.



## H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori: Zayed Humanitarian Day is a Message of Loyalty to the Founding Father's Vision of Placing People at the Heart of the Nation's Development and Progress

His Excellency Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, said that Zayed Humanitarian Day is a cherished national occasion to express our loyalty to the vision of the founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who sowed the seeds of generosity and giving among the UAE people and placed humanity at the heart of the nation's journey of development and progress.

His Excellency affirmed that Sheikh Zayed's legacy stems from an integrated humanitarian and development vision that positioned charitable work as a cornerstone of the country's policies and a means of promoting stability and prosperity both within the UAE and beyond.



## The “Retail Sukuk” Initiative Continues to Deliver Qualitative Results, Reflecting the Strength of the National Economy and the Resilience of the Financial Sector

The UAE continues to demonstrate its leadership in developing innovative investment instruments, as the Ministry of Finance’s Retail Sukuk initiative, launched in November 2025, delivers strong results that reflect the resilience of the national economy and the strength of the financial sector. The initiative has successfully established itself as a secure and attractive investment option for individuals.

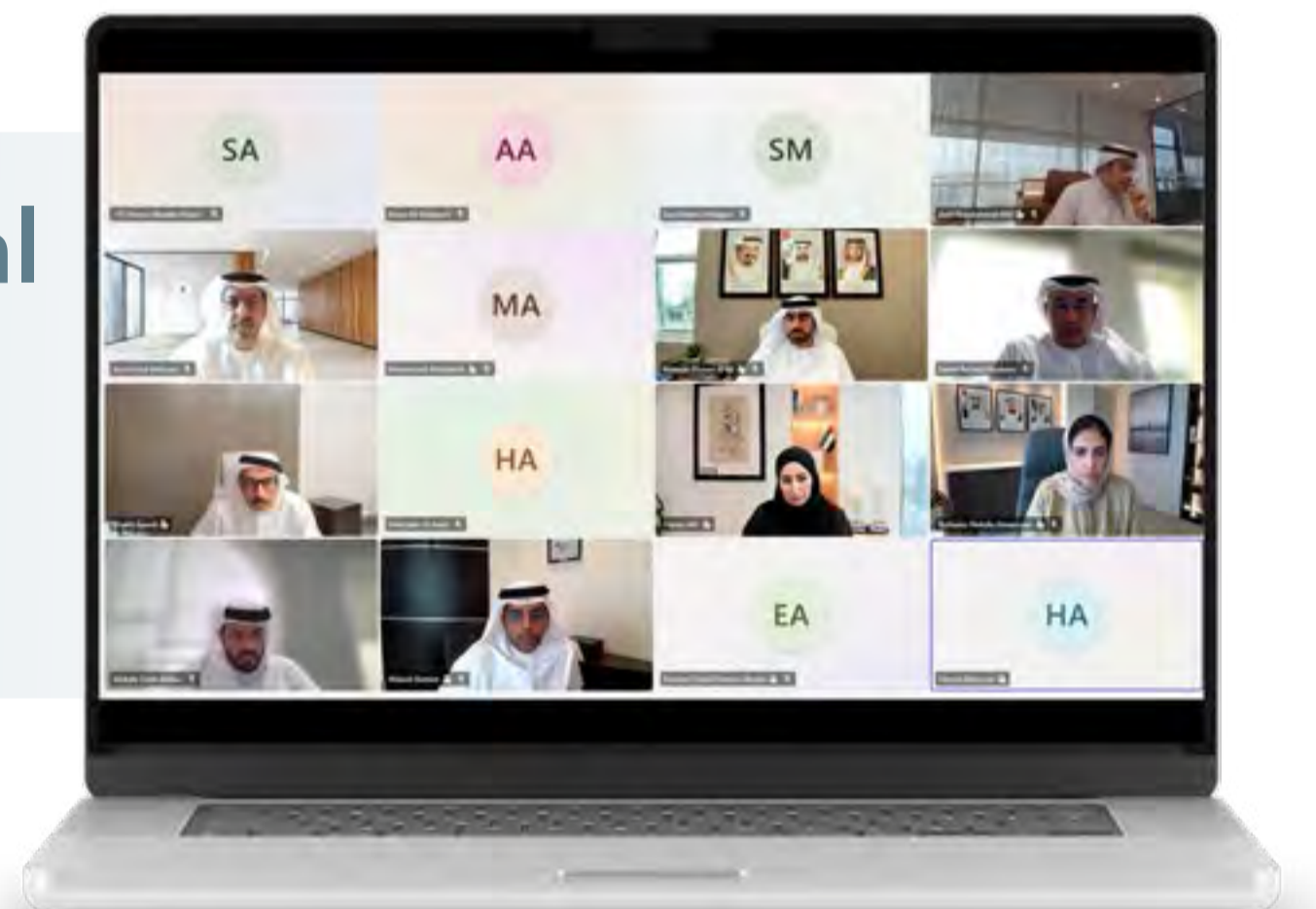
According to the latest data, total trading in retail sukuk and fractional bonds reached about AED10.84 million, involving 464 investors. This reflects growing confidence in the UAE’s investment environment despite global economic challenges.

H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, said the results achieved by the Retail Sukuk initiative showcase the strength of the UAE’s economic fundamentals and the resilience of its financial sector.

AlKhoori added that the growing participation of investors underscores increasing financial awareness and strong community confidence in government-backed financial instruments.



## The Government Financial Policy Coordination Council holds its first meeting for 2026

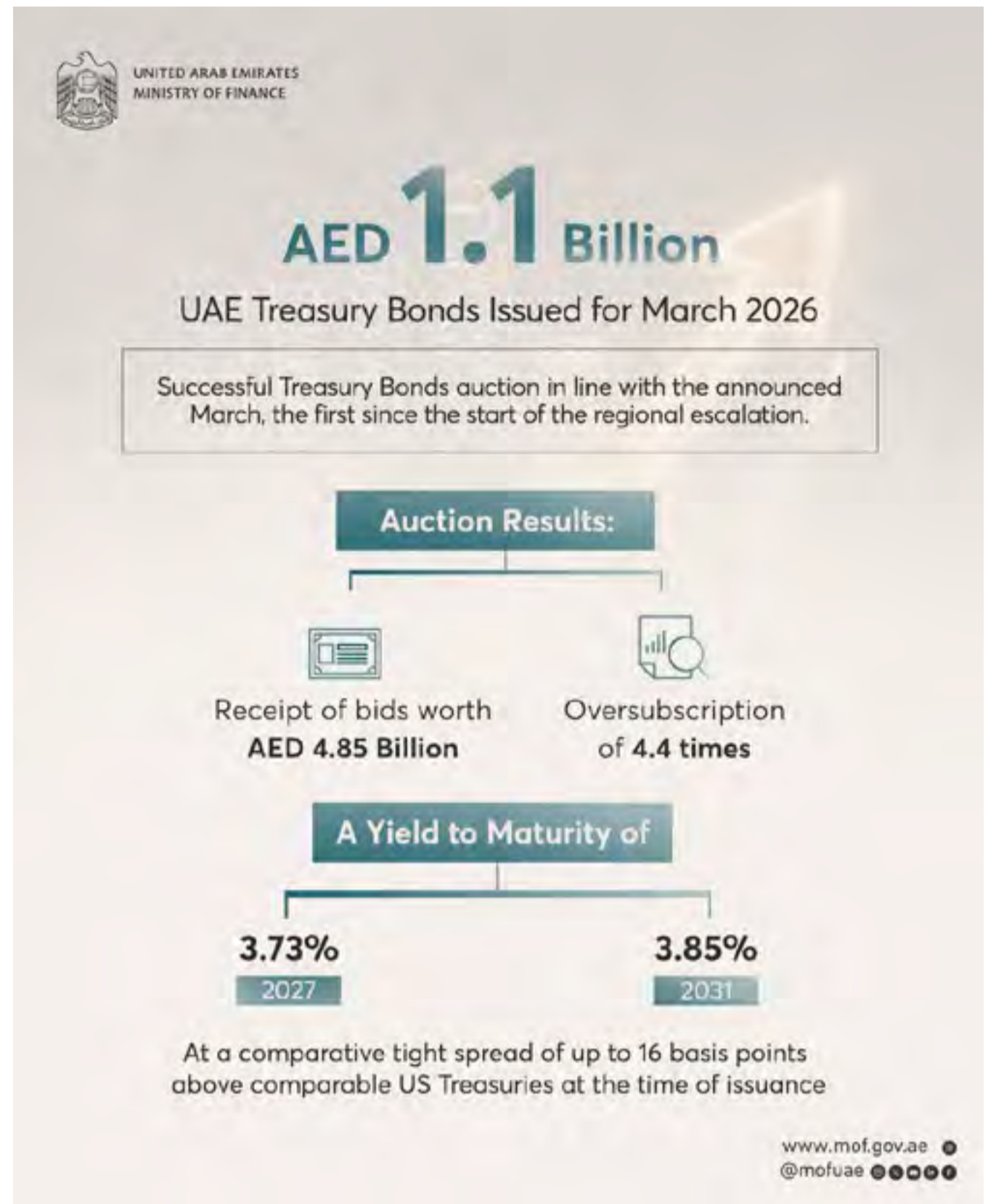


The Government Financial Policy Coordination Council held its first meeting for 2026, chaired by H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance. During the meeting, members reviewed the draft Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Balance of Payments estimates presented by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, as well as key monetary and banking indicators presented by the Central Bank of the UAE.

The Council also reviewed a number of initiatives, most notably the proposal to provide digital economy data, the policy governing the management of federal budget surpluses, in addition to ongoing preparations for the Annual Meetings of Arab Financial Institutions and the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Arab Monetary Fund, scheduled to take place in 2026.

# UAE Treasury Bonds Auction Held in Line with March Schedule with a Total Issuance of AED 1.1 Billion

The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in its capacity as issuer and in collaboration with the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) as issuing and payment agent, announced the successful completion of the March 2026 auctions of UAE dirham-denominated Treasury Bonds (T-Bonds), the first since start of the regional escalation, with a total issuance size of AED 1.1 billion. This auction is part of the Treasury Bonds scheduled annual issuance program for 2026, as published on the MoF’s official website.



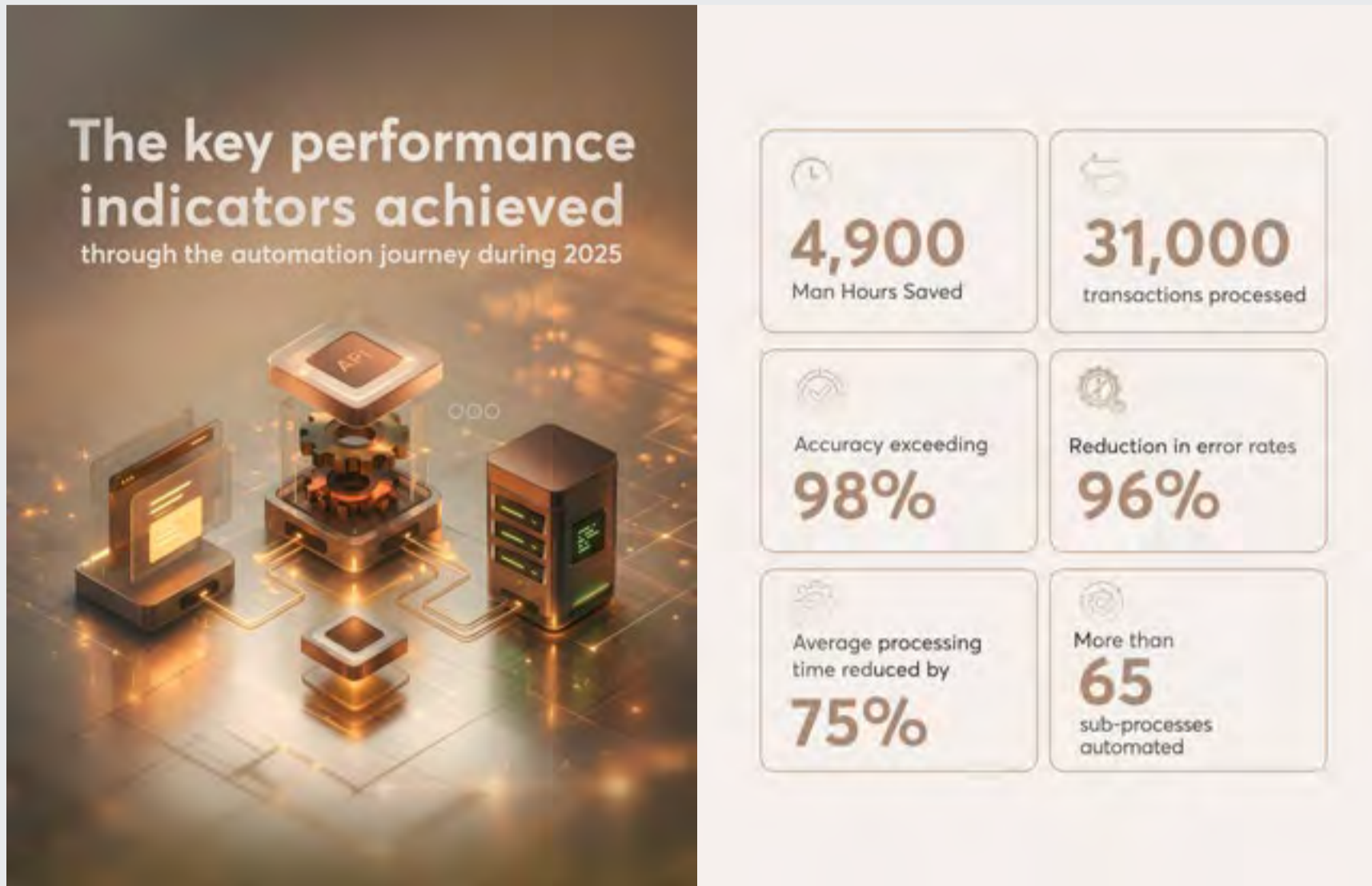
# Ministry of Finance Continues its Giving Approach through the Organisation of the “Ramadan Mir” Initiative



As part of its commitment to strengthening the values of social solidarity, the Ministry of Finance organised the “Ramadan Mir” initiative in collaboration with the Emirates Red Crescent and the Family Development Foundation in Abu Dhabi.

The initiative witnessed voluntary participation from Ministry employees alongside senior citizens in distributing food supplies to underprivileged families, reflecting a strong sense of social responsibility and reinforcing the spirit of community cohesion and human solidarity.

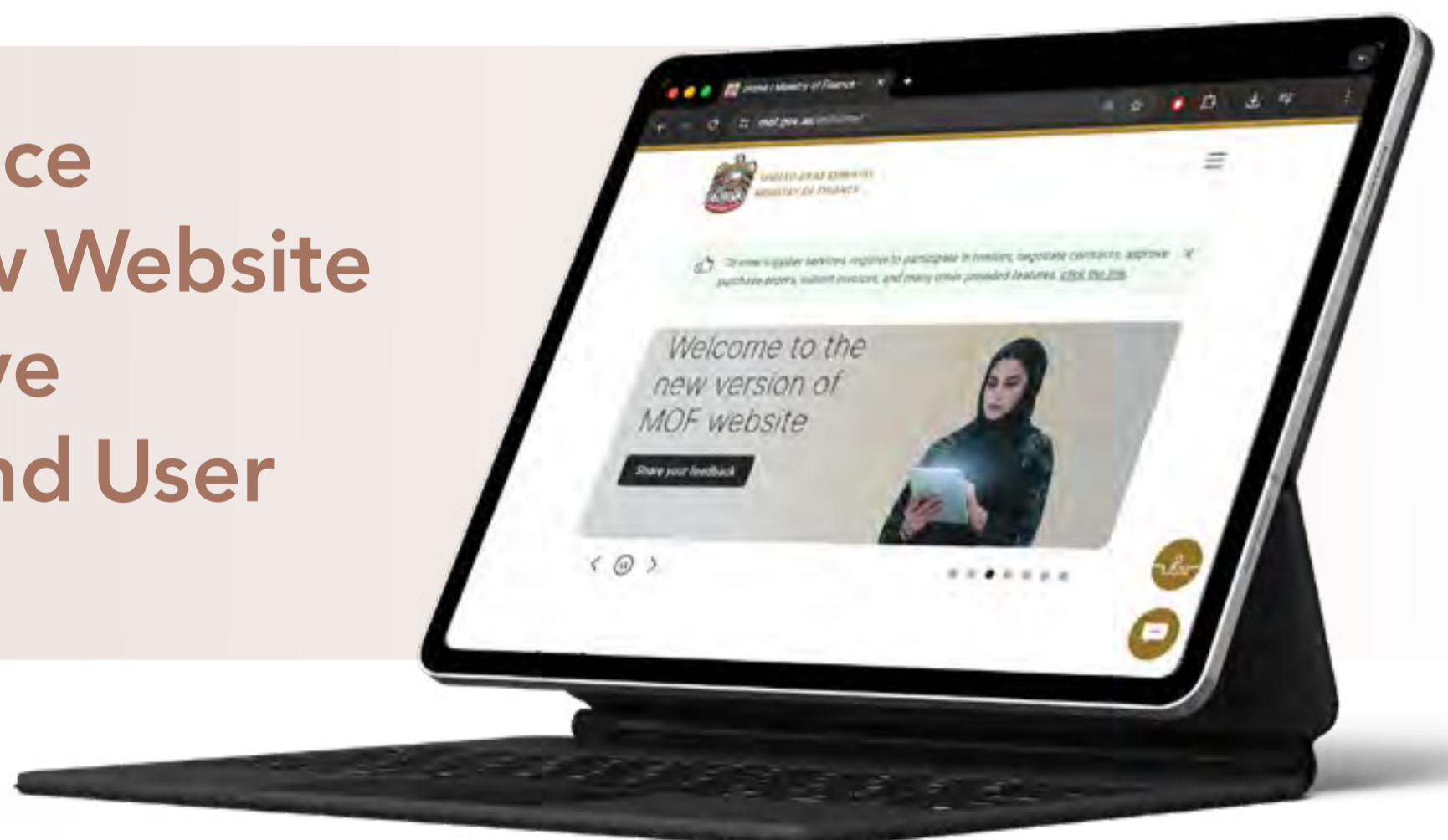
# Ministry of Finance Reaps the Benefits of Automation: 4,900 Work Hours Saved and Errors Reduced by 96% in 2025



The Ministry of Finance’s automation journey in 2025 delivered a significant leap in institutional efficiency, with smart solutions saving 4,900 human work hours and processing more than 31,000 transactions with high accuracy, contributing to a reduction in error rates by up to 96%.

These efforts included the automation of over 65 sub-processes, reflecting the Ministry’s commitment to developing a flexible work environment and accelerating procedures to ensure the highest standards of quality in government operations.

## Ministry of Finance Launches its New Website with an Innovative Digital Design and User Experience



The Ministry of Finance has launched its new website, reflecting the UAE government’s digital transformation agenda, enhancing customer experience, and facilitating seamless access to government financial services and data in line with the requirements of the digital government and the needs of users across all sectors.

The website has undergone a comprehensive redevelopment in alignment with the UAE Design Language System (DLS 2.0), and in accordance with the latest government standards and frameworks.

# Tax News

## Launch of the first phase of the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentives Programme



The UAE announced the launch of Phase 1 of its Research and Development (R&D) Tax Incentives Programme, marking an important step in strengthening the country's innovation ecosystem and supporting sustainable, long-term economic growth.

Under the first phase of the programme, businesses will be able to benefit from a non-refundable R&D tax credit of up to 50% on qualifying expenditure of up to AED 5 million. The measure is designed to encourage private-sector investment in research and innovation, while supporting the UAE's ambition to become a global hub for advanced industries and emerging technologies.

# Retail Treasury Sukuk: Expanding the Investor Base and Strengthening Financial Literacy

By H.E. Younis Haji AlKhoori  
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance

The UAE continues to move forward with a fast-paced development journey built on financial stability and economic openness, and supported by a vision that focuses on empowering society. In this context, the Retail Sukuk initiative stands out as a significant step that allows individuals to invest in government treasury sukuk that are compliant with Islamic Sharia principles.

The initiative is designed not only to strengthen the savings ecosystem but also to expand public participation in safe and transparent sovereign financial instruments in line with the Ministry of Finance's strategic direction to encourage community participation in supporting the national economy and to promote responsible investment as part of a sustainable financial culture. More importantly, it opens the door for individuals to access reliable, government-backed financial opportunities that were once limited to large institutions, thereby helping build confidence in the UAE's investment environment and giving people the chance to build more diversified and stable financial portfolios.

## Financial inclusion

The initiative also broadens financial inclusion by allowing a wider segment of society to invest in government financial instruments in a safe and well-regulated way. With a minimum investment starting at accessible levels (just AED 4,000), it enables different groups, including young people and early-career professionals, to enter the investment world gradually and responsibly. This demonstrates the Ministry of Finance's commitment to adopting policies that stimulate economic participation and responsible investing, while also making access easier through advanced digital channels that enhance transparency and efficiency. The initiative also changes how individuals interact with financial markets by allowing investments through the digital platforms of participating banks, creating a smooth and secure investment experience. It gives people access to stable financial instruments in a structured and accessible way, including the opportunity to invest in dirham-denominated sukuk based on the same assets that were previously available only to institutional investors.

## Building a savings culture

The impact of the initiative also extends to building a sustainable financial culture by encouraging long-term saving habits and responsible financial planning. Investing in safe government instruments can further improve the financial stability of individuals and families.

As part of these efforts, the Ministry of Finance is cooperating with national banks to improve financial awareness by providing the information and guidelines needed to understand sukuk and how they work. This helps individuals make informed investment decisions that support their future financial goals.

## Supporting a developed financial market

The Retail Sukuk initiative plays an important role in developing local financial markets by expanding the investor base and enhancing liquidity, which in turn strengthens market depth and diversity.



In addition, it contributes to building a dirham-denominated yield curve, a key element in advancing debt markets and improving their overall efficiency.

This initiative also aligns with the UAE's broader vision to strengthen its position as a global hub for finance and investment, while further cementing its role as a leading centre for Islamic finance.

## Banking partnerships

The Retail Sukuk programme is supported by the UAE's strong banking sector, with sukuk offered through digital platforms operated by participating banks. Through these platforms, investors can review offering details and terms, subscribe with ease and monitor their investments on an ongoing basis. This close integration between government financial policies and the banking sector creates a trusted model that delivers a seamless, efficient and transparent investment experience.

## Supporting a sustainable economy

The Retail Sukuk programme cannot be separated from the broader context of the UAE's strong economy and its position within the global Islamic finance landscape.

At its core, the initiative represents more than just a new investment product; it is part of a wider strategic vision aimed at enhancing financial sustainability and building on the foundations of a diversified, knowledge-based economy. It also solidifies the connection between society and the economy by allowing individuals to participate directly in the country's development journey.

At the same time, it aligns with the UAE's efforts to boost economic sustainability, while the Ministry of Finance continues to build a comprehensive financial ecosystem that supports economic growth and provides diverse investment opportunities for different types of investors.

## Trusted and secure financial tools

The Retail Sukuk initiative comes at a significant time as global economic conditions continue to evolve, offering individuals reliable and secure investment options that enable them to manage their savings more effectively.

The Retail Sukuk initiative comes at a particularly important time, especially as global economic conditions continue to change offering individuals reliable and secure investment options that enable them to manage their savings more effectively.

In doing so, it supports the expansion of the investor base, promotes financial awareness and encourages broader participation in the economy. At the same time, the initiative establishes a strong partnership model that brings together the government, the private sector and the wider community.

And by empowering individuals to become active contributors to sustainable economic development, the programme would also support the UAE's efforts to build a balanced and resilient economy capable of adapting to global transformations.