

inconsistent. Some commercial establishments included in the phase continue to hand out plastic bags. How can the ban be more effectively implemented? Here is what Muscat Daily readers said -

Salim al-Rubaidi
Private sector employee

The ban is a great move, but enforcement is weak. Authorities need to inspect shops regularly and fine violators. More awareness campaigns can also help people shift to reusable bags.

Mona al-Hiyami
Homemaker

I still receive plastic bags at small stores. There should be a rule for all, big or small. Give shops a deadline and make it affordable to use reusable bags.

Rashid al-Murthi
Student

We need stronger public engagement. Involve schools and colleges to spread awareness. Also, reward shops that follow the ban - positive reinforcement works better than just penalties.

Arun Munoz
Supermarket manager

Many stores continue using plastic due to lack of alternatives and cost issues. The government could subsidize paper or cloth bags for a while to help the transition.



Parvath Dhanraj
Student

Plastic causes pollution and it cannot be eliminated. It pollutes all the five essential elements of our universe. Stopping or significantly reducing the use of plastic is essential for our environment. The ban should be effectively implemented to save our planet. The first step towards this would be discontinuation of production of plastic. Next, is punishment for those who are not ready to take this seriously. Severe punishment like

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PHOTO BY THARAK THE DAY BEFORE

Mona Bashaer al-Zaidi
Private sector employee

Barren plastic bags is a necessary step towards a cleaner environment, but it's only the beginning. To ensure the ban is effective, there must be affordable and practical alternatives and public awareness. With these measures in place, the light green plastic pollution can become much more sustainable.

Javita Sarkar
Retail sales manager

I think it would be a great idea if we are given more access to reusable bags. Providing monetary incentives for reduced plastic consumption may encourage businesses to take more responsibility for our environment.

The biggest issue I and many other customers face with the implementation of this ban is the lack of acceptable alternatives. If I don't have a high-quality cloth bag, then I'm forced to use the ones provided by shops which are very expensive to buy and only last for a couple of purchases before they get ruined.

Siddharth Pandey
Software engineer

This ban can be more effectively implemented if authorities request local businesses more frequently. If they regularly monitor plastic consumption of commercial entities, they can make more informed decisions when they introduce new phases of the ban. Providing monetary incentives for reduced plastic consumption may encourage businesses to take more responsibility for our environment.

YOUR SAY

Is overtourism a growing concern in Dhofar during khareef? What can be done to curb the traffic and overcrowding?

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Celebrating the Future of Finance Leadership in Oman

ICAI Oman Chapter and OCCI Host Graduation Ceremony for Omani CFO Program – Sur

Sur, 26 July 2025 - In a significant stride toward advancing financial leadership and empowerment in Oman, the ICAI Oman Chapter, in collaboration with the Oman Chapter of Chartered Accountants (OCCI), hosted the Certificate Graduation Ceremony for the 5th Batch of the Omani CFO Program – Sur. The event was held at the Grand Hotel, Sur, celebrating the achievement of 72 aspiring Omani finance professionals. This milestone event marked the culmination of an intensive eight-week training journey, part of a transformational national initiative aligned with Oman Vision 2040. With successful graduates already recruited in Salalah, Muscat, Sohar, Barka, and Wadi Al-Jabal, the program has positively impacted more than 230 participants, guided by a network of over 100 dedicated mentors from ICAI.

The evening was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including:

- H.E. Sheikh Suhail bin Hamdan Al Saadi, Secretary General of the General Secretariat for National Collaborations
- Sheikh Rashid Anwar Al-Musaidi, First Vice Chairman, OCCI Board of Directors
- Ergi, Hamoud Salem Al-Saadi, Second Vice Chairman, OCCI Board of Directors
- Dr. Abdullah Mansour Al-Harthi, OCCI Board Member and Chairman of the CFO Mentoring Program Committee
- Mr. Anwar Hamad Al-Saiani, Board Member, OCCI
- CA Umamah Al-Azhar, Chairperson, ICAI Oman Chapter

A key moment during the event was the distribution of certificates to the CFO program participants and selected mentors, which was graciously carried out by H.E. Sheikh Suhail bin Hamdan Al-Saadi, extending privilege and encouragement to the celebration of their accomplishments. Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Abdullah Al-Harthi highlighted the program's deeper purpose beyond technical training: "This initiative is more than a training program - it's a platform to



shape confident, capable leaders for Oman's future." He commended both the participants and mentors for their dedication and effort.

Complimenting the graduates, CA Umamah Al-Azhar remarked, "We are not just developing CFOs - we are nurturing future leaders who will drive the beautiful Sultanate of Oman's economic transformation." He also an-



nounced that the fifth batch of the program will be launched soon in Barka, extending the initiative's reach and impact. A notable highlight of the evening was a dynamic panel discussion, moderated by CA Ajal James Kattan, featuring standout participants from the Sur batch:

- Ahmed Ali Al-Musaidi, Assistant

Treasury Manager, Special Offshore Services Co. LLC

- Natalie Taha Hail Al-Thawani, Assistant Finance Manager, SMN Power Holding SAGC
- Haneen Hassan Abdullah Al-Hadi, Finance Analyst, Ministry of Finance
- Shaghla Khams Al-Musaidi, Assistant Manager, Rawaq Rehabilitation Center

During the discussion, Ms. Natalie Taha Hail Al-Thawani shared a personal revelation, announcing that she had been promoted to Deputy Finance Manager at SMN Power Holding SAGC, attributing the growth in her leadership and technical skills to her participation in the CFO program.

The panelists shared powerful insights on how the program enhanced their leadership and strategic finance capabilities, while broadening their perspective on the evolving role of CFOs in a dynamic business environment. The Sur batch uniquely featured interactive group discussions, case-based multiple-choice assessments, and focused one-on-one mentoring - all designed to simulate real-world financial decision-making and deepen learning outcomes.

Top three achievers from the Sur batch were specially honored:

- Mohammed Husein Rashid Al-Fanadi, Al-Ram, Aviation Industries SAGC
- Majeed Abdullah Khams Al-Jabri, Oman, India Facilities Company (OMIFICO)
- Natalie Taha Hail Al-Thawani, SMN Power Holding SAGC

Launched in 2023, the Omani CFO Mentoring Program stands as a flagship initiative of the ICAI Oman Chapter, committed to nurturing future finance leaders through practical learning, structured mentoring, and strategic collaboration. The ICAI Oman Chapter also acknowledged the sustained support of the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) in achieving its mission.

The resounding success of the Sur batch reaffirms the power of mentorship, and institutional collaboration in shaping the next generation of financial leadership in Oman.

AL-HADITH

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