

OFWs among shareholders of Kabuhayan Fund

OVERSEAS Filipino workers (OFWs) are no longer just spending their hard-earned dollars and riyals on electronic appliances, housing renovations and small business ventures like *sari-sari* stores, bottled-water stations or the popular air-conditioned taxi-cab shuttles.

Experienced investment banker Phillip Hagedorn said OFWs have discovered that for much lesser amounts of anywhere from P5,000 to P50,000, they can become shareholders of the increasingly popular Kabuhayan Fund.

Appearing on the business news program "ANC Money," Hagedorn, who is president of the Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines (MFMCP), said since three to five years ago, OFWs "began realizing the potentials of mutual funds which allow small-scale investors to pool resources together with a set investment objective."

"We are happy that Kabuhayan Fund is becoming a favorite of OFWs who've realized that with their money under the watchful eye of a fund manager, they don't really have to shell out huge amounts of money to buy stocks or bonds with lower trading costs than doing it on their own," Hagedorn added.

He added where before "only bankers, businessmen and retirees took to chance of investment in mutual funds, our own Kabuhayan Fund now counts more than 400 OFWs among its more than 1,400 select shareholders."

Between 2003 and 2005, the Kabuhayan Mutual Fund (KMF), managed by the MFMCP, has been the best performing balanced fund in the industry because of its "superior stock selection, updated and well-devised investment strategy and active management style." KMF averaged 21.1 percent return per annum for investors during this

period.

Investing 50 percent in listed companies and 50 percent in fixed-income instruments, KMF provides its shareholders a diversified portfolio that creates more room for profit while reducing risks significantly.

"We are happy that with a minimum investment requirement of P5000, small investors like OFWs who neither have the time nor the large resources to invest can participate and enjoy the benefits of sound investment instruments like Kabuhayan Fund," Hagedorn said.

Aside from benefiting from high returns, mutual fund investors also help provide inexpensive funding for companies who want to grow. As these companies expand, they can in turn offer employment to thousands of people, help raise the level of income and lower the unemployment rate.

"By investing in Philippine mutual funds, investors can also feel good knowing they provide fuel for the growth of the economy. A growing economy benefits all Filipinos by providing jobs and opportunities for many," said Hagedorn.

"I really appreciate the effort Kabuhayan Fund is doing for us," says Rosita Ternio, one of the more than 400 OFWs who have become shareholders in the Kabuhayan Fund. "I definitely encourage more people to invest, especially my fellow OFWs. It's a good way to prepare for you and your family's future. I just wish I could've done this even before. I salute the people behind it. *Maraming salamat sa pag-aalaga ninyo sa aming malilit.* (Thank you very much for taking care of small investors like us.)," added Ternio.

With its liquidity, diversified portfolio, easy use and monitoring, the Kabuhayan Fund is a painless investment process for ordinary Filipino investors.