



PROTECTING PUBLIC PROPERTY

By Cesario R. Llobrera

Lydia was hurrying to school. She looked very happy. She held a bunch of bright red gumamelas. She would give them to her teacher. When she was just a few blocks from the school, she met Flora, one of her best friends.

Flora asked, "Where did you get such beautiful gumamelas?"

Lydia answered proudly, "From the park near our home. Would you like to come with me now to get some for you? Anyway, it is



still fifteen minutes before the time."

After she had done a little thinking, Flora replied, "Thank you. I'd rather not go. I like flowers very much but they are those that are not taken from public parks. Have you forgotten what our teach-

er has taught us about public property?"

In the above story who is the better young citizen? If you are a civic-minded citizen you can answer this question correctly.

Public property is owned by no one person. It belongs to us, to the people, to the community. Then, as civic-spirited citizens we must render our help to protect public property. We should respect public property the same way as we do respect our parents. We should keep the beauty and cleanliness of public parks and public gardens, of public buildings, of public playgrounds, and other similar property because they make the town attractive and presentable. In this way we can contribute towards the making of Manila as well as the provinces, towns, barrios, beautiful and delightful places to live in.

There are many points to be observed with regards to public property. Some of these are:

1. Don't pick flowers from shrubs and trees in parks and gardens.

2. The play grounds and lawns should be free from any kind of rubbish, such as pieces of paper, old tin cans, etc.

3. Don't make marks on any part of the buildings; never write or draw pictures on the walls with pencil, crayola, or pieces of chalk.

4. Never break off small branches or twigs from trees and small plants.

5. When you are playing, try not to run against the shrubs or to hide behind the leaves causing them to fall.

6. Never cut or bruise the bark of trees with a knife or any sharp instrument.

7. Don't throw stones on the street. You might break window panes.

8. Do not spoil the lawn of your school by making a path across it.

9. In the schoolroom, don't scratch or make marks on the desks, walls, floor, and blackboards.

10. In the playground, use the swings, see-saws, slides, and other equipment properly.

11. In public libraries, keep the books, newspapers, and magazines in their proper places.

12. Do not waste water from the artesian wells and make the ground swampy.

13. Statues in parks serve as reminders, so they should not be the target of stones or mud balls.



14. Never break down fences of public buildings.

15. Markets should be kept tidy and sanitary.

If you can follow these points always, then and only then, will you be proud to say, "Well, I have done my part."