



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

SECOND DIVISION

PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
*Plaintiff/Appellee.*

G.R. No. 184056

Present:

- versus -

CARPIO, *Chairperson.*  
BRION,  
DEL CASTILLO,  
PEREZ, *and*  
MENDOZA, *JJ.*

GEORGE EYAM J. WATANG,  
*Accused Appellant.*

Promulgated:  
**NOV 26 2012**

X ----- X

DECISION

DEL CASTILLO, *J.*:

Subject of this appeal is the September 20, 2007 Decision<sup>1</sup> of the Court of Appeals (CA) in CA-G.R. CR-H.C. No. 02215 which affirmed appellant's conviction by the Makati City Regional Trial Court (RTC), Branch 64, through its March 8, 2006 Decision,<sup>2</sup> for the crime of illegal possession of methylamphetamine hydrochloride or *shabu*, a dangerous drug, in violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act (RA) No. 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

*Factual Antecedents*

In an Information<sup>3</sup> filed on July 17, 2003, appellant was charged with

<sup>1</sup>Per raffle dated November 19, 2012.

<sup>2</sup>*CA rollo*, pp. 77-88; penned by Associate Justice Mariflor P. Punzalan Castillo and concurred in by Associate Justices Marina L. Buzon and Rosmari D. Carandang.

<sup>3</sup>*Records*, pp. 91-96; penned by Judge Delia H. Panganiban.

<sup>4</sup>*Id.* at 1.

were duly established by the prosecution in this case. Appellant was caught in possession of *shabu*, a dangerous drug. He failed to show that he was authorized to possess the same. Lastly, by his mere possession of the drug, there is already a *prima facie* evidence of knowledge, which he failed to rebut. All told, we sustain the conviction of appellant.

**WHEREFORE**, the appeal is **DISMISSED** and the September 20, 2007 Decision of the Court of Appeals in CA-G.R. CR-H.C. No. 02215 is **AFFIRMED**.

**SO ORDERED.**



MARIANO C. DEL CASTILLO

*Associate Justice*

WE CONCUR:



ANTONIO T. CARPIO

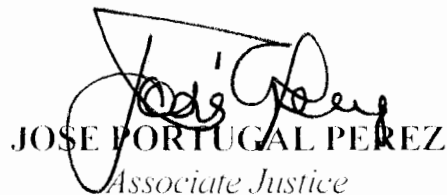
*Associate Justice*

*Chairperson*



ARTURO D. BRION

*Associate Justice*



JOSE PORTUGAL PEREZ

*Associate Justice*



JOSE CATRAL MENDOZA

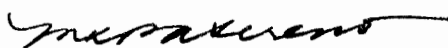
*Associate Justice*

**ATTESTATION**

I attest that the conclusions in the above Decision had been reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.

**ANTONIO T. CARPIO***Associate Justice**Chairperson***CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the conclusions in the above Decision had been reached in consultation before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Court's Division.

**MARIA LOURDES P. A. SERENO***Chief Justice*