An alleged owner and six customers of a drug den were arrested by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) during a buy-bust operation in Iloilo City.

In his report to PDEA Director General Isidro S. Lapeña, Atty. Gil Pabilona, Regional Director of PDEA Regional Office 6 (PDEA RO6) identified the suspected drug den owner as Abril Ricablanca, 44 years old, a resident of Yatingan, Pontevedra, Capiz.

On September 2, 2016 at around 7:30 in the evening, operatives of PDEA RO6 conducted an entrapment operation which resulted in the arrest of Joemarie Jover, alias Kuratong, 35, an auto mechanic; and Javier Baria, 34, a technician, after they sold two plastic sachets of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, weighing approximately 2.3 grams worth P20,700 to a poseur-buyer in a house utilized as a drug den in Laguda Subdivision, Barangay Magsaysay, La Paz, Iloilo City.

When operatives searched the house several drug paraphernalia intended for sniffing shabu, were discovered.

Four persons identified as Mac Anthony Agcanas, alias Mac-Mac, 21; Lester John Castor, alias Nonoy, 20; Jobert Gasacao, 31; and a 13-year-old minor, who were present inside the den when the operation was conducted, were also taken into custody.
Ricablanca was also arrested during the operation. The minor was turned over to the Iloilo City Social Welfare Office.

Jover and Baria will be facing charges for violation of Section 5 (Sale of Dangerous Drugs), Article II of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, while cases for violation of Section 6 (Maintenance of Drug Den) and Section 12 (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia) await Ricablanca.

Separate charges for violation of Section 7 (Visitors of a Drug Den) are being prepared for filing in court against the others.

The minor will be turned over to the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD).

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