



**RICHARD MARLES MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

DUTTON SHOULD BE ON THE NEXT PLANE TO PNG

Labor believes Immigration Minister Peter Dutton should immediately be dispatched to Port Moresby to hold urgent talks with the PNG Government about the future of the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre.

Today's PNG Supreme Court ruling that the detention of asylum seekers at the Manus Island facility is illegal is of significant concern to Labor.

Labor is seeking an assurance from the Government that it has a contingency plan to deal with today's ruling.

This decision, and our Government's response, will be monitored by people smuggling networks.

Nearly three years since coming to office and this Government has failed to properly manage its offshore processing network.

The Manus facility was established to serve as a circuit breaker, to end the capacity for people smugglers to market the dangerous journey to Australia. The original agreement Labor struck in 2013 was signed for 12 months.

It was never intended to serve as a punitive place of indefinite detention.

Mr Dutton and his predecessor, Scott Morrison failed to properly engage with the Government of PNG to ensure processing was occurring in a timely manner.

They have also both failed in securing a lasting, third country resettlement to resolve the future for the people on Manus and Nauru.

In doing so, this Government has breached its duty of care to each one of those men, women and children.

TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2016