



LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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**ADLAH "FONCIE"
DONASTORG**
Senator, 28th Legislatur

Member, Committees on

*Financial Services,
Infrastructure and Consume
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and
Environmental Protection*

PFA ratifies "Mafoliegate" spending

Vote a backdoor attempt to legitimize reprogramming of funds

ST. THOMAS – Senator Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg said he was dismayed, but not surprised, by the Public Finance Authority's efforts to cover up the illegal expenditure of public monies for improvements to Governor John P. de Jongh's private residence at Estate Mafolie.

On October 6, 2009 the PFA, chaired by de Jongh, moved to ratify the Legislature's previous vote to reprogram \$1.3 million from the Nadir Flood Control Project to various "road projects", which ended up including the Governor's driveway and the new stone guardhouse. Act 6917 authorized the reprogramming of funds, but the legislation did *not* authorize any spending at the Governor's home.

"Governor's intention to use any portion of the \$1.3 million on his own property was not publicly disclosed," Donastorg said. "If you review the text of the legislation it clearly states that funds were to be reprogrammed for 'engineering designs, construction, repairs or the resurfacing of roads' with no reference to the Governor's residence. Now the PFA, under the Governor's leadership, comes in yesterday and votes to ratify what was already an illegal and misleading reprogramming of funds."

Donastorg said he was disgusted at the Administration's continuing efforts to legitimize utilizing a half million dollars to upgrade the de Jongh's private home.

"The Legislature voted on the reprogramming issue 2 years ago," he said. "But now that the matter of the Governor's home improvements have come to light, the PFA suddenly has the need to ratify the legislature's actions? Do they think that no one is paying attention?"

Donastorg said that the Governor owed the people of the Virgin Islands an apology and at least \$443,000.

"Now is the time to admit his mistakes and pay back every penny spent at his house," Donastorg said. "It is not the time to meet with your cronies at the PFA and dream up new ways to try and make this legal. The Governor needs to take responsibility and cease in bringing others down with him."

The PFA members are de Jongh, Keith O'Neale Jr., Debra E. Gottlieb, Pablo O'Neil and Roy D. Jackson.

The Senator said that he was also concerned about the fate of the Nadir residents, who have long waited on what he describes as "critical" flood control measures.

"It is literally sickening that we are risking life and property in Nadir over this," he said.

Donastorg said he looks forward to the October 20, 2009 hearing on the matter of public funds being utilized for extensive improvements at the Governor's private residence.

"Sen. James was right on target when he said the Governor's actions were 'indefensible'," Donastorg said. "I hope that this meeting is an honest effort on his part to get to the bottom of this issue and determine how we can ensure that something like this never happens again."

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