



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fraudulent e-mail supposedly from Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., tells recipients he's stranded, broke in London, asks them for money

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – If you're feeling a little special because the president of the Navajo Nation sent you a personal e-mail asking for your help, we regret to disappoint you.

It's a hoax, one being tracked by an investigation.

"This is not the first time this has happened but we're in contact with local law enforcement, our own Department of Information Technology, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security because the event has moved beyond a mere hoax," said Patrick Sandoval, chief of staff in the Office of the President and Vice President. "The culprit has asked for money."

On Monday, an e-mail purportedly from Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.'s, yahoo.com account told recipients that he was stranded in London, had lost all his money, needed to pay his hotel bill, and was turning to all of them for 1,000 pounds sterling – the equivalent to

\$1,591.69 – to help him pay his travel debts. The e-mail was signed "Joe."

Meanwhile, the real President Shirley was in Window Rock receiving dozens of calls from friends around the Navajo Nation and the country who were inquiring about his predicament. He also received the bogus e-mail.

It's believed that the perpetrator accessed President Shirley's e-mail account through a password to send the fraudulent message to everyone in his address book. But to anyone who has ever received an URGENT MESSAGE saying that someone in Africa has \$20 million in an account that they would like to give you, such a hoax is not technically difficult.

Similar hoaxes using Navajo Nation and Indian Health Service e-mail addresses have been attempted in recent months.

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