



# 23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

HONORABLE LORENZO C. BATES  
SPEAKER, 23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

January 10, 2019

## **STATEMENT FROM SPEAKER LORENZO BATES REGARDING NEWS ARTICLE ON NAAT'ÁANII DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

In today's edition of the Navajo Times, the article entitled "Tsosie, others sound alarm on Naat'aanii Corp." does not accurately describe the outcome of Legislation No. 0444-18: an action relating to the Resources and Development Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and Naabik'iyáti' Committee, rescinding NABIAU-61-17, entitled "Amending the Navajo Nation Economic Development Fund and Fund Management Plan." There are two main points in the article that require correction and clarification.

First, the article states, "on Jan. 2 Navajo Nation Council "swiftly passed a bill (0444-18)" when in fact this legislation was passed by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on December 31, 2018. Furthermore, Title II of the Navajo Nation Code states, "The last day for consideration of resolutions shall be December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year immediately preceding the swearing in of the new Council." This basically means that the consideration of legislations was no longer permitted after December 31, 2018, making it impossible for the passage of Legislation No. 0444-18 on Jan. 2, as the article states.

Secondly, the article further indicates that President Russell Begaye vetoed the resolution, "according to Tsosie." The fact of the matter is that the Naabik'iyáti' Committee was the final authority for Legislation No. 0444-18, which did not require consideration by the President.

While I am not questioning the entirety of the article, it is important to clarify these two points. Under my term, the Office of the Speaker has always done our best to welcome inquiries from news reporters. On many occasions, our staff welcomes them into our office, sits down, and answers their questions. In this situation, it would have been beneficial for Navajo Times readers if inquiries to our office were made before the printing of this particular article. We remain open and willing to address questions from the media upon request.

LoRenzo Bates, Speaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council