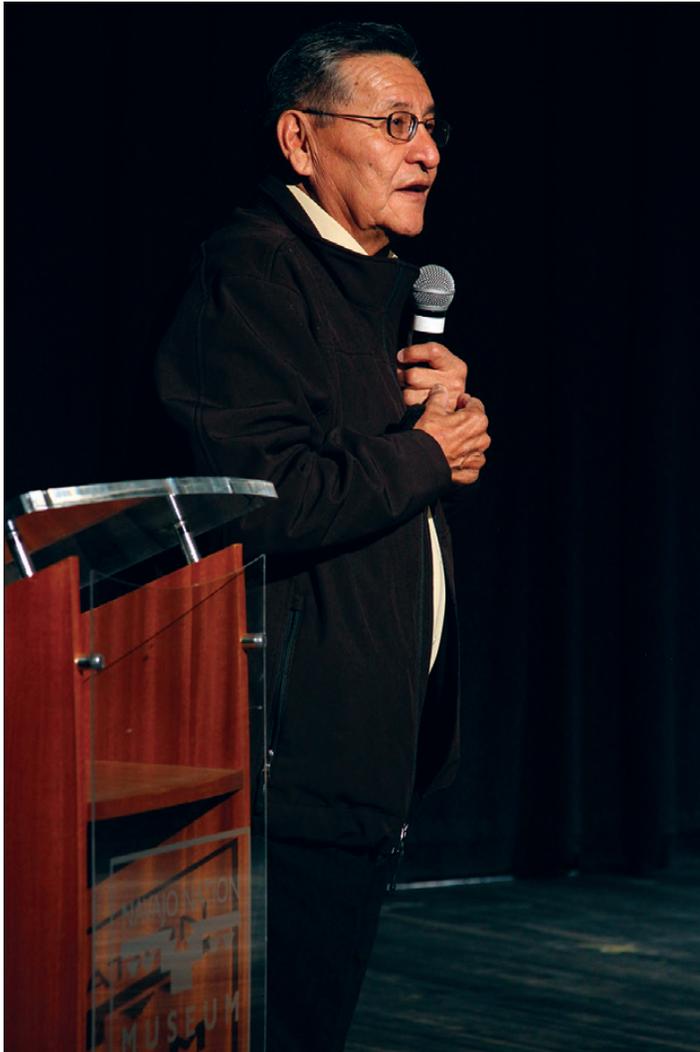




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2014

Decision to place Speaker Naize on leave is internal to Council



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said the Navajo Nation Council takes care of their own house with any issues related to the Council, including the decision to place Speaker Johnny Naize on administrative leave. He said the matter of Speaker Naize is under litigation and that the Executive Branch will continue moving forward with the administrative functions of the government. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK – According to Navajo Nation law, selection of the speaker is the authority of the Navajo Nation Council. As Council, they also have the power to discipline their members.

Navajo Nation President

Ben Shelly expressed concern over the recent decision by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council to place Speaker Johnny Naize on paid administrative leave.

He said the Nation must be able to continue functioning, especially

regarding the signature authority of the Council regarding contracts, grants and other fiduciary considerations.

“The matter is in litigation,” President Shelly said. “We anticipate an immediate resolution as the court will make the appropriate decision.”

Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code mandates that the Legislative Branch sets policies for the government and approves various matters set before it by the Executive Branch.

The Executive Branch carries out the administrative functions of the government and the

people at the tribal, state and federal levels of government,” President Shelly said.

Continuity of government will be maintained for the Navajo people, as the Navajo Nation Council’s case goes before the courts for resolution.

President Shelly expressed the need for resolution and encouraged the courts to make a swift determination in the case.

-30-

“We hope the matter is resolved immediately to preserve government duties and responsibilities.”

Judicial Branch interprets the laws.

“The Executive Branch will continue with its administrative functions and the Office of the President and Vice President will continue to represent the Navajo

