



THE NAVAJO NATION

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ MEET WITH KEYBANC TO ESTABLISH \$100M CREDIT FACILITY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ-President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez met with Budget and Finance Committee Chairman Seth Damon, Sihasin Fund Sub-Committee Chairman Leonard Tsosie and Keybanc Executive Geoff Urbina on Wednesday, Oct. 5 to discuss establishing a \$100 million dollar revolving credit facility for the Navajo Nation.

President Begaye and Vice President Nez have always worked to preserve the entire principal of the Sihasin Fund while leveraging a portion of the interest income for debt service.

The president, vice president and the chairs of both the B&F and Sihasin Committee all agreed to preserving the entire Sihasin fund balance and leveraging the interest income for debt service, while the principal balance continues to grow.

“We are leveraging our settlement dollars. We don’t want to spend the principal,” President Begaye said. “We want to leverage the interest income. Then the principal dollars will be there for us to use in the future.”

“The Sihasin Fund Sub-Committee has since engaged KeyBanc to present a term sheet for a \$100 million dollar revolving credit facility with favorable terms for the Navajo Nation,” said Robert Joe, Chief Operating Officer for OPVP.

President Begaye said the Nation is in the beginning stages of working toward expanding its financial capacity that includes developing a Navajo Nation banking institute.

“The future of Navajo is to have our own bank. That has always been the goal,” the president said. “We want to become a lending tribe while becoming a strong financial institution. The Nation has never done anything like this before.”

The potential for lending customers exists on the Nation and establishing a revolving credit facility is a step toward developing a Navajo bank.

The president and vice president both agreed that using the Sihasin Fund wisely will increase the Nation’s credit rating and position the Nation favorably to leverage funds for future projects.

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