



THE NAVAJO NATION

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ APPOINT BOBBY WHITE AS ACTING CONTROLLER

WINDOW ROCK-Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez announced today that Bobby White will be appointed as Acting Controller.

White's current appointment as Acting Controller isn't his first time serving in this capacity with the Navajo Nation. To his credit, White was instrumental in establishing the Permanent Fund, the \$554 Historical Trust Fund Mismanagement Litigation which set up the Sihasin Fund, the Appropriations Act and the Bond Financing Act.

White's appointment comes only two days after the 23rd Navajo Nation Council voted to remove the previous Controller Jim Parris.

"Ensuring the financial stability and continuity of the Navajo Nation, as we face this abrupt change in Controllers, is my primary concern," President Begaye said. "We are looking toward the expertise of former Controller Bobby White to protect the integrity of Nation's reputation in overseeing the Nation's finances as we transition forward in finding a full-time, permanent Controller."

Vice President Nez said White's appointment is an effort to maintain the financial integrity of the Navajo Nation.

"Mr. White is the former Navajo Nation Controller and architect of the Appropriations Act and Navajo Nation Investment Policy. We are confident in his institutional knowledge of the Office of the Controller and his ability to keep the operations flowing," said Vice President Jonathan Nez.

During his previous tenure as Controller, White rejected balances put forth by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding trust funds. In rejecting these balances, he filed documents disputing these balances which became the main sources of the litigation filed against the BIA.

This litigation led to the \$554-million-dollar historical trust fund mismanagement settlement that established the Sihasin Fund.

"If he accepted the BIA's balances, the Nation wouldn't have filed the lawsuit against the BIA," President Begaye said. "This is exactly the kind of financial fortitude I expect our Controller to have in standing on their ethics and what is right for the Nation."

Speaking as a former Budget and Finance Committee Chairman, Vice President Nez said he knows about White's solid reputation and honest work ethic.

"He can handle the day-to-day operations of the tribal financial system while looking at the big picture, with regard to the tribal investment portfolio," Vice President Nez said. "Who better to help us in this time of uncertainty?"

White will be appointed as the Acting Controller until Office of the President and Vice President recommend a permanent Controller to the Navajo Nation Council for appointment.

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