



## Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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### NEWS RELEASE:

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## **22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council receive reports kicking off day one of 2012 Winter Session**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Council received the State of the Nation Address, the Speaker's written report, and reports from Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Diné College, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The President's address to the Council was one of cooperation in order to solve the problems of our nation and to build a better future.

"It is our place to work together to solve these troubling dilemmas. We can use our leadership to build on our Nation's future," President Shelly stated. "It's important that we keep our commitment to the work ahead and where we all want to be: A strong, confident Nation."

"As leaders let's honor and respect each other. We can debate issues and disagree. We'll always face opposition, but we must work for the betterment of the people and the Nation," Shelly added.

Speaker Johnny Naize's report recaptured the activities of the year old 24 member Council while outlining the his platform for the next year.

"It has been my vision as Speaker of the twenty-second Navajo Nation Council to rejuvenate the Navajo Nation Legislative body by doing what we as Diné have always done with new beginnings; that is, remove the contents of our Hooghan, sweep the earthly floor, and eventually return our belongings to Hooghan with a renewed breath of life and offerings for a blessed future."

Speaker Naize recounted a year's worth of activities of doing more with less. The year's activities included: Navajo Nation Title II Amendments of 2011, redistricting, gaming, Fort Wingate Military Depot, health, infrastructure, Bennett Freeze, Legislative building plan, communications, and chapter corrective actions/prevention of future infractions.

"Moreover, I believe the other top three priorities identified by Council, 'Responsive, Efficient and Accountable Government', 'Self Determination in Education', and 'Infrastructure

Development' speak loudly and clearly through the major pieces of legislation the Navajo Nation Council passed this past year. Such legislation included the 2011 Navajo Nation HIV/AIDS Act, the Navajo Nation Peabody Lease Re-opener, the Navajo Nation Alchini Bi Beehazaannii Act of 2011, the Arizona Public Service 25-Year Lease Agreement, and the Navajo Nation Supplemental Appropriations Act."

Speaker Naize was sure to highlight the exceptional work of the Council during the phase of restructuring of the Council and the Committees.

"I applaud the collaborative efforts of the council delegates and the Navajo Nation staff for addressing this matter immediately and efficiently. It is these types of cohesive efforts that display the power and will of our nation and its leadership."

The Council also received written reports from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Diné College and a verbal report from Sharon Pinto, Director of the BIA Navajo Regional Office.

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