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Speaker Naize expresses appreciation to past and present leadership at the grand opening of the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort

LEUPP, Ariz. – Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony last Friday, for the new Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, located approximately 24-miles east of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Speaker Naize welcomed hundreds of guests and dignitaries at the casino's grand opening event, alongside Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise CEO Derrick Watchman.

"We welcome you all to this wonderful new facility, which also serves as a symbol of economic prosperity for our Navajo people," said Speaker Naize during the brief ceremony which took place in the casino's rotunda.

Located at the east entrance of the casino, the rotunda showcases a custom chandelier along with a colorful conceptual installation depicting the Navajo story of emergence and the Four Worlds.

Calling it "fabulous," Speaker Naize praised the interior design of the casino and resort, which emphasizes Navajo artistic and cultural concepts throughout the 267,000 square-foot facility.

Also in attendance were members of the previous 21st Navajo Nation Council and members of the current 22nd Navajo Nation Council.

Speaker Naize thanked former and current delegates for their hard work and determination in completing the project, while giving special recognition to former Council Delegate Lawrence Platero who served as the chairperson of the Economic Development Committee in the previous 21st Navajo Nation Council.

"One day, he came to the Council and said 'I want gaming, let's build casinos,'" recalled Speaker Naize. "Without him, we would not be here today."

Speaker Naize further expressed gratitude to all the individuals and entities involved in the development of the casino, including members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, and staff from all four Navajo-owned casinos.

"This is a symbol of our Nation's economic independence and sovereignty, which would not be possible without all of your planning and hard work," Speaker Naize concluded.

Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort is the Nation's first casino in the state of Arizona.