



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
Chrissy Largo | 928.637.5603
nmlb.communications@gmail.com

Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates urges Council to move forward

Following the Navajo Nation Council's action last Friday, to place Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) on paid administrative leave, Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) met with legislative branch staff on Monday morning, to explain that the functions of the Navajo Nation government will remain in tact to continue to serve the Navajo people.

"Continue to do your work for the Navajo people," said Pro Tem Bates. "It's business as usual."

On Monday, a request for a temporary restraining order against the 12 members of Council who voted in favor of placing Speaker Naize on administrative leave was filed in Window Rock District Court, on behalf of Speaker Naize.

According to court documents, the court found "good cause" to deny the temporary restraining order. However, the District Court Judge requested for additional information including a full transcript of Friday's special session, and scheduled a hearing to take place on Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Speaker Pro Tem Bates has refuted allegations that threats of any nature occurred following Friday's action by Council.

"To my knowledge, no threats by any members of Council were made against Speaker Naize or his immediate staff members," said Pro Tem Bates.

Additionally, Pro Tem Bates said that the actions of Council do not prevent Speaker Naize from carrying out his responsibilities or obligations to the communities he represents.

"By no means does Council's action disenfranchise the voters within Speaker Naize's legislative district," said Pro Tem Bates. "Speaker Naize is still a voting member of Council with the freedom to fully carry out his duties as a delegate."

Pro Tem Bates called for an end to the divisiveness between Council members, and implored delegates to unite and work together for the betterment of Diné citizens and to begin to move forward.

"We are here to serve the Navajo people and that should remain the focus of Council at this time," Pro Tem Bates stated.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org