24th Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

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Speaker Damon Encourages Progress and Positive Change at Navajo Housing Authority

PHOENIX – Navajo Nation Council Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) delivered a message of progress and positive change at the Navajo Housing Authority annual meeting in Phoenix Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

Speaker Seth Damon speaks at the NHA annual meeting in Phoenix July 23,2019

The Speaker had just returned from updating the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Washington on the Council and NHA's joint efforts to address several findings in a Navajo Nation audit conducted in 2018. Vice President Myron Lizer also participated in the SCIA meeting.

"We need a successful NHA in order to combat many of the modern ailments the Nation confronts," said Speaker Damon. "We can't rewrite the past, but we can write our own future."

The Speaker expressed how the home is a sacred reflection of the universe in miniature. The housing and housing-related services that NHA provides have the awesome power to provide a stable homelife and empower our Diné households.

"The homes you provide ensure that our children have a place to study, play, eat, and be secure," stated Speaker Damon. "Our veterans and elders have security in their wellbeing in the homes you build and maintain."

Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, T'iis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) relayed how being grounded in culture and being fearless in the performance of each worker's mission is necessary for progress.

"Through K'e we are able to help each other," Delegate Nez said. "As NHA said in its invitation to speak, I truly believe that NHA 'employees' strong connection to their culture and their communities inspires them to provide housing and housing related services' to our Navajo people."

NHA CEO Dwayne Waseta emphasized in his opening remarks that NHA needs to partner with the Navajo Nation's 2020 Census efforts. Waseta demonstrated his message with his hand.

"NHA has 9,000 housing units and the census affects how we are funded," stated Waseta. "We cannot build homes with one person. It takes the all five fingers working together."

Pax Harvey, MC for the meeting's general session, recognized Miss Diné College Mariah Lee. Lee lived in NHA housing for 15 years before matriculating to Diné College.

"That's why you're here," said Harvey. "To support the next generation like Miss Diné College."

Delegate Vince R. James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Łichíí, Steamboat) also attended the NHA annual meeting general session Tuesday.

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