Kayenta, Ariz—Vice President Jonathan Nez spoke before the Law and Order Committee (LOC) on Tuesday, Apr. 26, discussing the need to develop and implement a Tribal Action Plan (TAP) to assist the Nation in acquiring funding and grants. The LOC meeting was held at the Kayenta Tribal Court facility.

"For over thirty years, the Navajo Nation has concentrated on this effort," he said. "We need a unified action plan."

Office of the President and Vice President Executive Staff Assistant, Yvonne Kee-Billison noted that the Law and Order Committee has likely entertained a TAP during a previous administration. She said that developing the TAP will require collaboration between OPVP, the LOC and Health Education and Human Services (HEHSC) Standing Committees.

The tribal action plan currently on file was completed in 1989-1990, said Kee-Billison.

"We have not addressed an update since then," she said. "This Tribal Action Plan (TAP) focuses on how tribal divisions, programs and departments address issues relevant to crime, health, delinquency and education."

Many grants relating to the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services require a TAP for full consideration.

"Because we don’t have an updated one, we are not getting the points we could when applying for grant funding," she said. "We will need better collaboration among departments on this."

The development and implementation of the TAP must be completed by December 2016.

After presenting at the LOC meeting, Vice President Nez stopped in at the Kayenta Senior Center to visit with elders and provide an update. The vice president assured the elders that funding for the Elderly Center would remain available and the center would not be shut down.
Vice President Nez also attended the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) that was held at the Visitors Center in Monument Valley, Oljato, UT.

During the meeting, Vice President Nez spoke about projects in line with the administration’s four pillars.

In synopsis, he talked about the swearing-in of the Veteran’s Advisory Council and their roles and responsibilities; the Youth and Elder Conference that will take place in Tsaile on July 18-20th; the restructuring of the Executive Office and Divisions to address budgetary shortfalls, duplication of services and increased productivity; and the recent Navajo Nation Economic Summit that addressed the need for the Nation to develop sustainable economies that are less reliant on the coal, oil and gas industries.

Although the RDC meeting didn’t have a quorum, the discourse of the meeting was productive and insightful.

“It’s good to be home,” Vice President told the gathered attendees. “Everything I’ve learned from you all has helped me in my position as Vice President.”

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