
“For The People”
O’ODHAM HA-WE:HEJED



Edward D. Manuel
CHAIRMAN

Verlon M. Jose
VICE CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, June 25, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inauguration Ceremony for Incoming Tohono O’odham Nation Leadership To be Held on June 26

SELLS, Ariz. – The inauguration ceremony for newly elected Tohono O’odham Nation Chairman Edward D. Manuel and Vice Chairman Verlon M. Jose will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 26, 2015 at the Baboquivari High School Gymnasium in Topawa, Ariz. An inaugural reception and dance will be held Friday evening at Desert Diamond Casinos on Pima Mine Road, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Dignitaries from across Arizona are planning to attend the inaugural ceremony and reception, including tribal leaders, elected officials and community leaders. The event will feature traditional music and dance as well as remarks by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Chairman Manuel and Vice Chairman Jose said *“We are honored and grateful to the people for entrusting us with this tremendous responsibility. This inauguration ceremony commemorates that trust, as we begin moving ahead to build a brighter future for the O’odham. We also welcome the many friends and neighbors who are joining us in this celebration, and we look forward to working together for the benefit of all our communities.”*

Chairman Manuel and Vice Chairman Jose come into office with extensive experience that will serve them well as they assume their leadership positions. Chairman Manuel served two previous terms as Chairman of the Nation, from 1995 to 2003. After leaving the Chairmanship, he represented his home District of Pisinemo on the Tohono O’odham Legislative Council, eventually rising to the post of Vice Chairman of the Council. He has also previously served as Chairman of the Pisinemo District and worked in the Nation’s Planning Department. Chairman Manuel is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Vice Chairman Jose has served as Chairman of the Nation’s Chukut Kuk District for the past four years, and previously represented the District for eight years in the Tohono O’odham Legislative Council. He has also formerly served as President of the Baboquivari Unified School District, as a Tribal Attorney General Legal Assistant, and as a Tribal Court Advocate.

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