

Lofa Women Weaving Center (LWWC)
A Project of the
Small Business Administration (SBA)

Lofa Women Weaving Center (LWWC)--The Lofa Women Weaving Center was conceived in March 2014. The project will serve as a facility to organize and build the capacity of rural women cooperatives (50-150) members working in the textile sector to produce "Lofa Cloth" for local and international markets. It will facilitate product and design development, innovation through competition among designers/weavers to produce quality products, using "Lofa Cloth." Most importantly, the project will provide on-the-job training for local weavers through apprenticeship program to improve their skills and handicraft techniques and help reduce poverty in rural communities.

This effort is consistent with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's agenda for inclusive growth and its Rural Industrial Promotion Program for Economic Empowerment (RIPE), which is intended to promote, among other things, cottage industries and value addition in rural communities.

The Center will be built on a portion of 25 acres of land donated by the elders of Kolahun District, Lofa County. The property has been surveyed and deeded. Expression of Interest (EOI) has been published and bids received for the design and construction of the Center. An Evaluation Team set up by the ministry is currently evaluating the bids.

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has embarked upon promotion of authentically made in Liberia products especially the Lofa Cloth. To this end, the ministry in 2014 open the Liberian MarketPlace located in Monrovia to showcase various Liberian-made products including various designs of the Lofa Cloth.

This initiative will certainly create demand for the Lofa Cloth especially with the up-coming launch of the "Wear Your Pride" campaign which will inspire citizens including Liberians in the diaspora and others within our borders to wear the locally produced Lofa Cloth and promote it as a national brand. The Lofa Women Weaving Center will therefore be a critical vehicle for job creation in rural communities and poverty reduction. The cost of the project is estimated at **US\$262,300.**



Assistant Minister of the SBA touring the 25 acres of land at Bolahun Junction on Foya Highway, where the Lofa Women Weaving Center will be built.



A Survey-Line (Property Line) of the 25 acres of land where the Lofa Women Weaving Center will be built is being inspected by the Assistant Minister of the SBA.



One of the Cornerstones of 25 acres of land at Bolahun Junction on Foya Highway.