



## Black Billionaire Builds in Haiti

Posted by **Alapi** on April 22nd, 2010



Robert Johnson is shown with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama at the announcement of the Haitian Relief Fund.

The RLJ Companies, LLC (“RLJ”), an innovative business network founded by Robert L. Johnson, and Global Building Solutions, LLC, (“GBS”) a structured insulated panel manufacturer and international design build group, through their Haiti subsidiaries, have formed a joint venture, Caribbean Opportunity Holdings, to provide an engine for development in North Haiti.

Caribbean Opportunity Holdings will establish a presence in Northern Haiti to allow for immediate development of suitable mass housing and industrial and tourism development following the January 2010 earthquake.

In 2008, RLJ and GBS partnered to develop the RLJ Kendeja Resort and Villas, a four star luxury resort and spa opened in Monrovia, Liberia in March of 2009. RLJ Kendeja, a 78-room villa style hotel is the first hotel construction completed in the country in twenty-five years.

“We believe that our track record working together in Liberia, completing a full service resort from architectural plans to completion in under twelve months, provides us with the expertise to source, develop and complete projects in Northern Haiti where infrastructure is scarce and the earthquake devastation makes business development for a sustainable economy difficult,” stated Robert L. Johnson.

“GBS and RLJ have been successful in Liberia building a local skilled labor force and in many cases creating local companies to act as subcontractors to our project base,” noted senior member of the GBS board, Ben Gramling. “We are confident that we can do the same in Haiti and at the same time provide much needed housing quickly and cost effectively.”

