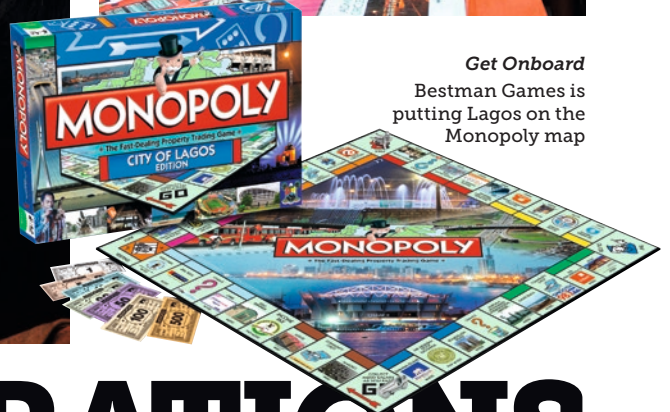




Get Onboard
Bestman Games is putting Lagos on the Monopoly map



GOOD MIGRATIONS

Arik Air passengers on journeys of a lifetime.

This issue Nimi Akinkugbe

Nimi Akinkugbe is the CEO of Bestman Games, Nigeria, the African distributor of local editions of the board game Monopoly. She tells Wings why young people must learn to visit other African countries.

The creation of the City of Lagos edition has been a learning experience for me. There was so much about Lagos that I didn't know. For example, I wasn't aware of the Lagos State Drivers Institute to improve our driving culture and retrain drivers. I also had no idea that the emergency services numbers are 767 and 112. There's a stunning new landmark that connects Ikoyi with the Lekki Corridor, the Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge, West Africa's first cable-stayed bridge. It's a most impressive landmark that has improved our landscape and has also had a huge impact on traffic flow.

The sheer size of Lagos and its teeming population is awe-inspiring. This project brings into focus the energy, drive and creativity that the current administration brings to bear in transforming this mega-city. It really is a wonderful platform for us to showcase the transformation of our continent and its untapped investment and tourism potential.

I've learned that if we are not proud of our own heritage and do not tell our story in our own way it may seldom be told in a positive light. Rather, we will continue to be portrayed as a continent overshadowed by disease, poverty, hunger, corruption and widespread civil strife. We have presented Lagos on the international platform using the game of Monopoly. It's just one way of telling our own story in a positive way.

"We have presented Lagos on the international platform using the game of Monopoly. It's just one way of telling our own story in a positive way"

As Africans, we have not taken the time to showcase our rich cultural heritage. We have been content to be silent about the world's myopic view of us and seldom take time to explore our own blessed continent. Indeed, it was only when I was Regional Director (West Africa) for Barclays Bank that I visited West African countries as part of my role. I had never done this before and was amazed by what I discovered. It's up to us as Africans to promote and educate the world about the positive things we have to offer and we can only do this by educating ourselves first and being our own PR agents.

There's priceless value in learning and expanding one's horizons through travel. I encourage our

youth to challenge themselves to visit at least one Nigerian city and one African country a year. They will be pleasantly surprised by what they will discover. Fortunately, Arik Air reaches most West African destinations if one doesn't wish to travel by road. I spent a large part of my childhood years in East Africa and the family holidays we enjoyed at that time are still some of the best I have ever experienced. Africa is a continent that has been blessed with a vibrant people, stunning landmarks, abundant natural resources and the beauty of a rich cultural heritage that makes us unique; all these are waiting to be discovered and presented to the world. ➤

Belinda Otas