



FACT BOX:

Mayor tells sorcerers to banish evil

The mayor of Niger's capital has ordered qualified sorcerers to chase away evil spirits reported to be making terrifying appearances at night.

Nightlife lovers in Niamey have repeatedly complained of a woman who appears from nowhere, curses and threatens them before vanishing as if she had evaporated. Young women in skimpy outfits have been particular targets for the evil spirits.

"Given the rumour which has been circulating for at least three weeks now of strange apparitions stalking people, notably young women, I have ordered all the elderly chiefs of Niamey to resort to the traditional sacrifices, with qualified people, to stop this curse," Niamey Mayor Jules Oguet said. Animist beliefs and witchcraft are widespread in West Africa and sorcerers often have a big influence on their communities.

reuters

The image to the right is not an advertisement. This company needs no marketing. In Niger if you want to drink beer, it is either Biere Niger or Flag. It is possible to get other types of beer but they are hard to find, and expensive, at least on a volunteers allowance.



Niamey is a hodge podge of all types of people. There are many ex-pats (someone from another country living and working in Niger), and most of them live in Niamey. After being in your village for a month or two, some people find Niamey refreshing. It is as close as you'll get to coming home for a visit, unless you actually come home. The capitol was a bustling city with a lot of revenue running through it back in the 1970's because of the exportation of Uranium to other countries. Once the demand for Uranium stopped so did the revenue. This is evident in all of the architecture in the city. There aren't any skyscrapers, but there are some decent size hotels and buildings.

Someone who has never lived in a village may not find this exciting but one of the best things about coming to Niamey was a shower, a few beers, a burger, and speaking english with other Americans.

Niamey is fun and offers many things to do, from swimming or watching a movie at the American Recreational Center to going out to a dance club or a bar.