

« We make do and keep going! » The Non-State Resources of the Functioning of Niamey and Zinder (Niger) Regional Courts.

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The African public services are weak. However, they stumble on meeting the users' requests. The present communication explores from the « resourcefulness » concept or "*débrouillardise*" in French, the mechanisms through which these services operate in an overall context of State's insufficiencies. It echoes to the recent literature on the malfunctioning of the contemporary African State which put an emphasis on the "perverted" behaviors of the civil servants in relation with their official appointments. The corruption, vote-catching and neo-patrimonialism are the aspects put in evidence by the practices of the state civil servants in their relationships with the users. Deep ethnographies of the functioning of the two regional courts in Niger call to put in perspective the negative perceptions of the civil servants' practices. Some of them contribute to the State's functioning.