

# A rumor about the sale of "sex dolls" raises the temperature in Ouaga



In recent days, they have been making headlines on social networks. "Sex dolls", they say, are tearing like hotcakes in the big market of Ouagadougou. Except that no one has seen them. Young Africa conducted the survey.

" Where are we going? Ouagalais have become more trendy than the whites themselves. Thus begins the Facebook post of the page "Rumors of Ouaga", published on January 22nd. The photo in support, the text diffuses a news which makes the effect today of a bomb on the social networks burkinabè: "Life-size Chinese doll, 1.65 m, already available at the big market of Ouagadougou with kpêtou [ feminine, editor's note] too realistic: a real miss in your bed! "And conclude:" They tear themselves like hotcakes. Already 11,000 copies sold in less than two weeks. "

The news of sex dolls stacked on the market stalls of Ouaga, which spreads like wildfire, divides the Burkinabe opinion.

In a country where more than 60% of the population is Muslim and more than 23% Catholic, the so-called arrival of these sexual accessories is not welcomed. While some are indignant at this new proof of the commodification of women and depraved morals, others see it as a boon: the opportunity to get a "girlfriend" malleable wish.

Except that ... neither one nor the other, have really seen these "love dolls" of the discord.

# "Electro-benefactors"

Ouagadougou is not the only city concerned by this rumor. In recent days, the controversy also swells in several African capitals: Douala, Abuja, Dakar, Abidjan ... Posts crafted and promoting their way have multiplied on social networks.

BYE-BYE THE ARGUMENTS, FINISHED THE JEALOUSY, FINISHED THE OINTMENT MONEY

The dolls are described as realistic, flexible, with real hair and beautiful clothes. "Bye-bye the arguments, finished the jealousies, finished the silver of ointment, the goumins [the lack of affection, note] ... The electro-benefactors are in Abidjan", rejoices a surfer Ivorian.

Read this : [Are buying sex dolls Legal and safe In The USA?](#)

And yet, in this promotional frenzy, no message clearly indicates where we can get these magic dolls. Another problem: their price seems copied and glued (about 800 000 nairas - or 1.2 million FCFA - according to a post-Nigerian, but only 800 000 FCFA in Ouagadougou) and out of step with those of the market.

On specialized sites, prices for silicone sex dolls can reach up to 5,000 euros depending on the options chosen and the quality of the product. On Amazon, however, a doll of inferior quality can be acquired for only a hundred euros (around 65 000 FCFA).

Exorbitant amounts compared to the minimum wage of a Burkinabe worker, which is about 40 000 francs per month. Difficult, therefore, to imagine such a product flow like "rolls" to Rood Woko, the big market of Ouagadougou.

In addition, a quick search from the photo illustration that regularly accompanies the promotional message can be seen that it has already been used in 2011, to illustrate an article on the development of the "mail-order bride". In this practice, women from developing countries register on the catalogs of marriage agencies. The men who choose them then take the administrative steps to bring them to their country - better equipped - to marry them.

THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE NEVER SOLD IN OUAGA

In 2013, the same image was used to illustrate an article warning women against the arrival of silicone dolls ... in the Philippines. A rumor that has since circumnavigated the world.

As in Morocco, in 2016, where a rumor about the sale of inflatable dolls had caused a police raid on the Casablanca market. Without success. This had been obviously fueled by archival footage, mixed with various mini-reports and sidewalks made by local media.

## No import authorization

In Ouaga, some merchants of Rood Woko only ask them to see these dolls. "It's something we see in the movies but we never sold in Ouaga. As they come out, maybe it will take a few months before people import here," says the manager of a supermarket.

Another shopkeeper in the capital says he is "shocked that people are giving up real women for dolls". If he received images via WhatsApp, he does not know if these dolls are actually sold in Ouaga.

WE NEVER ALLOWED THE IMPORTATION OF SUCH A PRODUCT IN BURKINA

The Burkina Faso Ministry of Commerce denies having granted licenses for the importation of the "love doll". "We have never authorized the importation of such a product in Burkina," says *Jeune Afrique* Alassane Ouedraogo, director of the department's one-stop shop for trade and investment.

The case does not concern the authorities any less. The ministry says it has conducted investigations to detect the presence of sex dolls in the country. "We learned about social media rumors and whether these dolls really came into our territory. For now, our research has been unsuccessful," says another official source.