

The Battle of Neighbourhoods in Benin

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1 Introduction

Benin formerly Dahomey, is a francophone country in West Africa. The neighbouring countries to Benin are Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east and Burkina Faso and Niger to the north. In Benin, majority of people lives in the southern part while from the centre to the northern part of the country we have very large surface of land used for farming with few lands used for shopping mall or park or business centres. We explain such situation by the concentration of administrative and economics activities in the southern part of the country. In fact, the capital of Benin is Porto-Novo (situated in the south, department of Oueme), the seat of government is in Cotonou (situated in the south, department of Littoral). Parakou (situated in the north, department of Borgou) added to Cotonou and Porto-Novo are three cities with particular status for their density in administrative and economics activities.

2 Business Problem

For many foreigners investing in Benin as well as citizens it is more common to settle a business in the south and make its flourish by the power of your marketing strategies. However, this could easily turn into a nightmare of endless financial investment due to the very fierce competition between small and big companies or newly established growing companies and old well-established companies. As mentioned earlier, the northern part of the country really abounds of free land that are ready to be used for business establishment and a population badly in need of that. However, entrepreneurs are still sceptic to establish themselves and develop good business activities. In this study we would like to draw again to the attention of Businesses and foreign investors the real existence of an empty vacuum that needs to be filled for good business profit and development of the country at large in order to re-equilibrate this distribution of business activities all over the country.

3 Data Description

To approach this problem, we will use the following data as follow:

- We found the information about the departments and communes of Benin on Wikipedia: We scrape that information to create our data frame of Department, Borough and Region.
- We found sample of dataset about the regions and their neighbourhoods in Benin at the webpage GeoPostcodes: We use this information to create a

geocoder data frame of department, region with their neighbourhood and the information about their latitude and longitude.

- We used Foursquare API to collect the information about the venues in two selected regions: We will select one region in the south and another in the north of the country. These selected regions will be subjected to some analysis to identify the most common venues in these parts of the country.