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Mystery tree kills Akunyili's campaign manager

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BARELY five days to the rescheduled National Assembly polls, a mystery Iroko tree has killed one of the campaign managers of Prof Dora Akunyili, the candidate of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) for Anambra Central senatorial seat.

The tragic incident occurred at Amawbia, near Awka, the Anambra State capital, in early hours of yesterday, when the tree fell and crushed to death 22-year-old Nnamdi Ahatuogu.

It was learnt that the young man was until his untimely death, the campaign manager of the former minister in Amawbia.

The deceased was said to be sleeping in his room, while a strong wind swept across the town, pulling down the old mysterious Iroko tree on his part of the building.

The tree trapped his legs, as he continued to cry for help for over two hours before he gave up the ghost before the arrival of sympathisers.

The late Ahatuogu was the Amawbia Ward campaign manager to the former minister.

At the time of the incident, the deceased was wearing an APGA branded clothes, and was believed to have attended a meeting of the campaign organisation before he came home to sleep.

Akunyili, the Anambra State Governor, Mr. Peter Obi, and a former deputy Governor of the state, Mrs. Virgy Etiaba, were among the first callers at the home of the deceased. Obi, who was shocked by the tragedy said: "As you can see, this is an unbelievable situation that a young man should die this way. This is to remind the communities to be careful of such trees before they cause this type of havoc."

He said issues like tall trees being allowed in residential areas was one of the matters raised at the weekly state Executive Council (EXCO) meeting yesterday.

It is believed that some people use the tree as a shrine and have resisted efforts to cut it down.

"Some people believe that there are some mysteries around this tree. They believe our ancestors


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came out of this place and it has been giving a protective cover to some extent,” an indigene of the town said. He further stated: “One powerful evil man said the tree will be cut over his dead body. They use the tree to trick people, claiming that it offers some powers.”

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