

CHINEDU WOSU, Port Harcourt

WONDER, it is said, will never cease or how does one rationalize the killing of a female teenager by a 200-year old "mystery" tree in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The speculated "juju tree" which fell on Monday at Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt also destroyed property worth millions of naira including three buildings and crops.

The falling of the tree which

Mystery tree kills one, destroys property

is popularly known as "Akpo tree" has equally rendered many people in the community homeless.

Daily *Champion* correspondent who visited the community learnt that the mysterious tree had been abandoned for years without any worshipper attending to it.

An eyewitness told us that the sudden fall of the tree and

•In PortHarcourt

the killing of the teenager was a taboo that needs the cleansing of the land by the community.

The incident has left the Rumuolumeni community in fear as the villagers also expressed shock over the mayhem, just as the tree

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Mystery tree

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caused a major traffic jam in the area.

We further learnt that the victim whose names could not be ascertained at press time, of the sacred tree is yet to be buried as the tradition requires the community to embark on the cleansing of the land in order not to attract the wrath of the gods and to restore peace and normalcy to the Rumuolumeni community.

The incident left most of the traditional rulers and the chiefs of the community speechless as most of them declined comment on the falling of mysterious tree in the community.