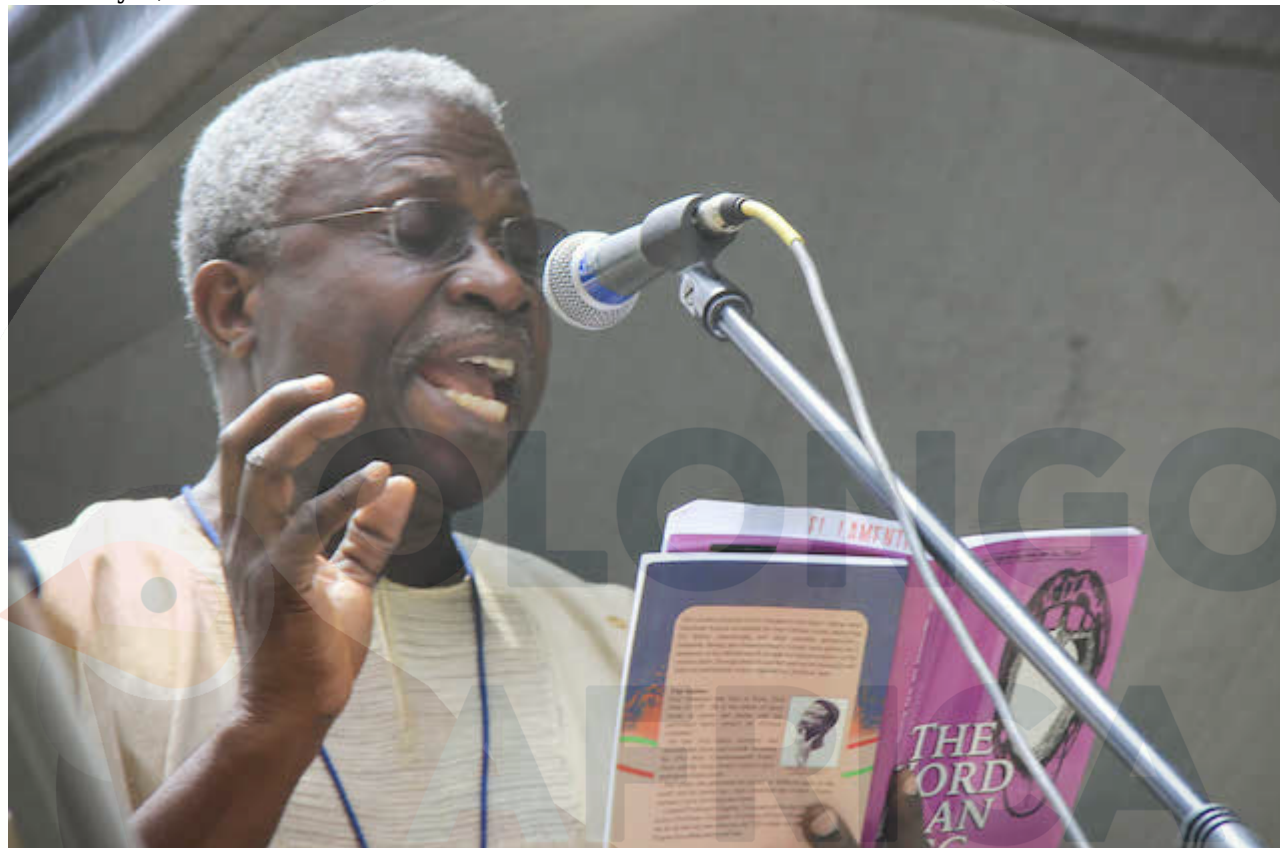


# Poem: “The Real Subsidisers” by Níyì Ọsúndáre

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## NIGERIAN SUBSIDY AND THE REAL SUBSIDISERS

Here, in plain, **unsubsidized** language

Are the basic facts

About the fabled Nigerian “subsidy”

Whose endless lies have besieged our ears

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

The rampant CORRUPTION of our rulers

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Their fatal incompetence and prodigal greed

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Those government budgets and their *recurrent* plunder

Those *capital* expenditures which total up

To the *execution* of our commonweal

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

The Honorables who pad the budget

With frightening figures for *constituency projects*

Which never veer beyond their bank accounts

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Those countless *security votes*

Which have only made our lives *in*-secure

And the countless fortunes of *Their* Ex-cellencies

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

That two-million-dollar bra\* of our Oil Minister

That billion-naira budget for State House snacks

The mounting misery which consumes our ranks

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We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Our school-less children, foodless stomachs

Death-trap roads, crowded horse-spittles

Murderous bandits and their blatant terror

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Moribund refineries and their mortifying debts

Their viscous load no less crude than

The brains of those who control our fate

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

The endless tales about humongous 'landing costs'

Sponsored raids by untouchable smugglers

In this land where Thief is Chief and Law is lame

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Oil-Block magnates from the Power-Block mafia

Who tip the scales from their golden bedrooms

And swim and splurge in unearned preferment

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

The crimes of rulers who think less

Care less, love less, sin more; from whose

Thunderous prayers minarets tremble and spires fall

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

The rampant CORRUPTION of our rulers

We the Nigerian people *subsidize*

Their fatal incompetence and prodigal greed

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*\*Reference to Nigeria's erstwhile Petroleum Minister whose bra was allegedly priced at more than 2 million naira. And that was just one minor item among her numerous property and possessions whose value ran into billions of naira.*

OLONGO  
AFRICA

