

Bossa to earn over sh10.8b from ICC

By Taddeo Bwambale

When Justice Solomy Balungi Bossa takes her seat as one of the 18 judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), she will be one of the highest paid judicial officers in the world.

ICC judges, who serve nine-year terms, each receive an annual, tax-free salary of euros 180,000, which was last year raised to euros 206,270 (sh878.9m), translating into about sh73.2m monthly.

Each of the ICC judges is further entitled to an annual allowance of euros 20,000 (about sh85m), in addition to an annual salary top-up of euros 60,000 (about sh255m) and a special allowance of euros 270 (about sh1.1m) for each day that a judge is engaged on the business of the court. The entire benefits package comes to over sh1.2b annually, according to ICC documents.

Bossa was one of six new judges elected to the 18-member international court during the 16th session of the Assembly of States Parties held at the UN head offices in

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New York on Tuesday.

Set up in 2002 by the Rome Statute, to which Uganda is signatory, the ICC has a mandate to people for crimes



Justice Bossa

against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

The pay for ICC judges is marginally higher than that of judges of the International Court of Justice, also based at The Hague in the

Netherlands, where another Ugandan judge, Julia Sebutinde, sits.

Rewarding job

When Bossa takes up residence at The Hague in the Netherlands, she will also be entitled to assistance for the education of her dependents, in line with terms and conditions similar to those of the UN.

Each of the ICC judges is also entitled to a decent pension benefit. If she serves a full, nine-year term, she will be entitled to a retirement pension equal to half the annual salary, about sh500m.

However, a lower rate is given if the judge does not complete the nine-year term, but serves for at least three years. No additional pension is paid if the judge has served beyond their term.

In case of death, a surviving spouse receives 50% of the late judge's pension. The ICC judges are, however, responsible for their own health insurance.

Each of the ICC judges is entitled to a round trip from his or her declared

home to the seat of the court, along with an assignment grant to cover relocation expenses. All travel shall be by business class.

Who is Bossa?

Born on April 14, 1956, Bossa holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Makerere University, a diploma in Legal Practice from Law Development Centre, Uganda and several post-graduate qualifications.

She wields over 20 years of judicial experience at the international, regional and national levels and has prior experience of 10 years as practicing advocate and human rights activist.

For 10 years, between 2003 and 2013, Bossa served as Judge of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (UNICTR). In 2013, Bossa was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court of Uganda, a position she still holds. She becomes the second female Ugandan judge to serve at a world court in recent years, after Sebutinde who is a judge at the ICC.