

From the **HOSPITAL** *TO THE C-SUITE:*



*A Journey of
Purpose & Transformation*

BY FAITH ATWONGYEIRE

An Unexpected Beginning

A woman with glasses and a striped blazer is speaking at a wooden podium. She has a laptop open in front of her. The background features a large blue 'B' logo and a patterned wall with the word 'Elevate' repeated. A blue speech bubble contains the text below.

Sometimes, the path to purpose begins in the most ordinary of moments — a visit, a conversation, a spark of curiosity.”

It began in the most unexpected of places , a hospital room. A dear friend, Charlotte Tushabe, had been admitted, and like any concerned friend, I went to check on her recovery. Between gentle laughter and heartfelt conversation, our discussion drifted toward professional growth and the question that often lingers in the minds of ambitious women: How do we grow ourselves, career-wise?

That was when Charlotte mentioned a leadership development program called Journey to the Boardroom (JTB). She spoke of it with such conviction that it immediately sparked my curiosity. She encouraged me to apply, assuring me that she would speak to Janet, the program’s founder. The only catch; the deadline was barely three days away. That evening, I went home filled with both excitement and apprehension. I wondered whether I could afford the program, whether I was ready, and whether I even belonged in such a space. Still, I decided to take a leap of faith. I submitted my application only to later discover that I had been placed in Journey to the C-Suite (JTC) instead.

Finding My Place Among Leaders



I attended the program launch with my sister, Rhona. The room buzzed with energy executives, directors, senior managers, each exuding confidence and success. We exchanged amused glances, whispering to each other, 'Everyone here has such big jobs!' We laughed about it on our way home, unaware that those very rooms would soon feel like home too.

On the first day of class, introductions began. One by one, participants stood to share who they were and the positions they held. As I listened, I felt a quiet wave of self-doubt. I'm just a Senior Associate at a law firm, I thought to myself.

How am I going to fit in among these corporate powerhouses?

Later that day, I messaged Charlotte half-jokingly: 'You didn't warn me that everyone in this program is already up there!' But as the sessions progressed, something shifted. Beneath the impressive titles and job descriptions were human beings each seeking growth, clarity, and reinvention. Titles, I realized, did not shield anyone from the need to learn.

Balancing Motherhood, Work, and Ambition

The Journey to the C-Suite experience demanded not only intellectual engagement but also immense discipline and sacrifice. Classes were held on Monday evenings and early Saturday mornings, times that, for many working mothers, are already stretched to their limits.

Balancing my professional responsibilities at the law firm, the demands of motherhood, and the rigor of the program was not easy. There were evenings when I arrived in class after a long day at work, mentally exhausted yet eager to learn. There were Saturday mornings when I left home before the children woke up, carrying a silent guilt only mothers truly understand.

Yet through it all, I discovered strength I didn't know I possessed. Those classes

became my sacred space, a time to invest in me. They reminded me that personal growth does not wait for perfect timing; it demands commitment even when life feels full. With every module, every group project, and every insightful discussion, I learned to manage my time, energy, and emotions with greater grace and intention.

*“Leadership isn’t about hierarchy
— it’s about humanity.
It’s about influence rooted in
authenticity, vision, and service.”*



Lessons in Leadership and Humanity



When the class was divided into groups, the real test began. Every individual brought a unique personality, perspective, and leadership style to the table. There were moments of tension, laughter, and revelation. Through our teamwork, we learned what no textbook could teach: how to collaborate across differences, how to communicate under pressure, and how to balance ambition with empathy.

We navigated challenges that mirrored real-world leadership, tight deadlines,

diverse opinions, and the constant juggling act of professional and personal commitments. As the program unfolded, I found myself growing in resilience, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence.

By the end of the program, I was no longer the hesitant Senior Associate who wondered if she belonged. I had evolved into a confident leader capable of guiding a team, managing complexity, and driving results with purpose and poise.

A Transformative Experience



Looking back, Journey to the C-Suite has been more than a leadership program, it has been a profound journey of self-discovery. It taught me that leadership is not about position; it is about purpose. To Janet Navvuga B, whose vision birthed this transformative space,

thank you for empowering leaders to grow beyond their titles. And to anyone standing at the crossroads of uncertainty and ambition, I say: take the leap. You may not know where it will lead, but it just might take you exactly where you are meant to be.

Key Lessons from My Journey



- **Leadership begins where comfort ends.**
- **Growth demands consistency, not convenience.**
- **Titles do not define worth; character does.**
- **Leadership begins where comfort ends.**
- **True leaders lift others as they rise.**
- **You can be both a devoted mother and a decisive leader.**

About the Author

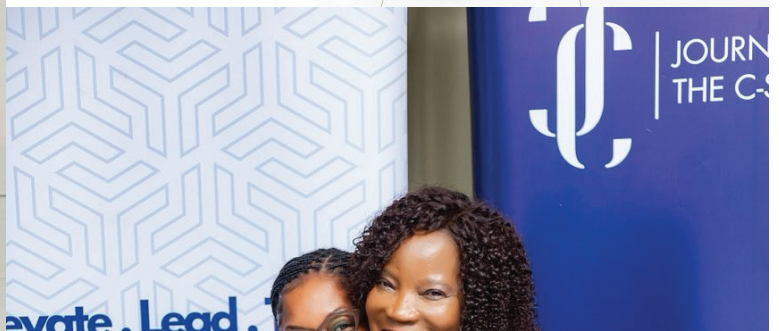
Faith Atwongyeire is a legal professional and leadership enthusiast passionate about empowering women to rise with confidence and purpose. A Senior Associate at a leading law firm, she blends her love for the law with a commitment to continuous growth and authentic leadership.



"Your true character isn't how you act in the room, it's who you are after you leave it."
- BRIGITTE KUSIIMA, PARTNER SM&Co. ADVOCATES



"Excellence is built in the details: how you manage time, communicate, and carry yourself — that's professional hygiene." —PAMELA NATAMBA-TAX PARTNER PWC UGANDA



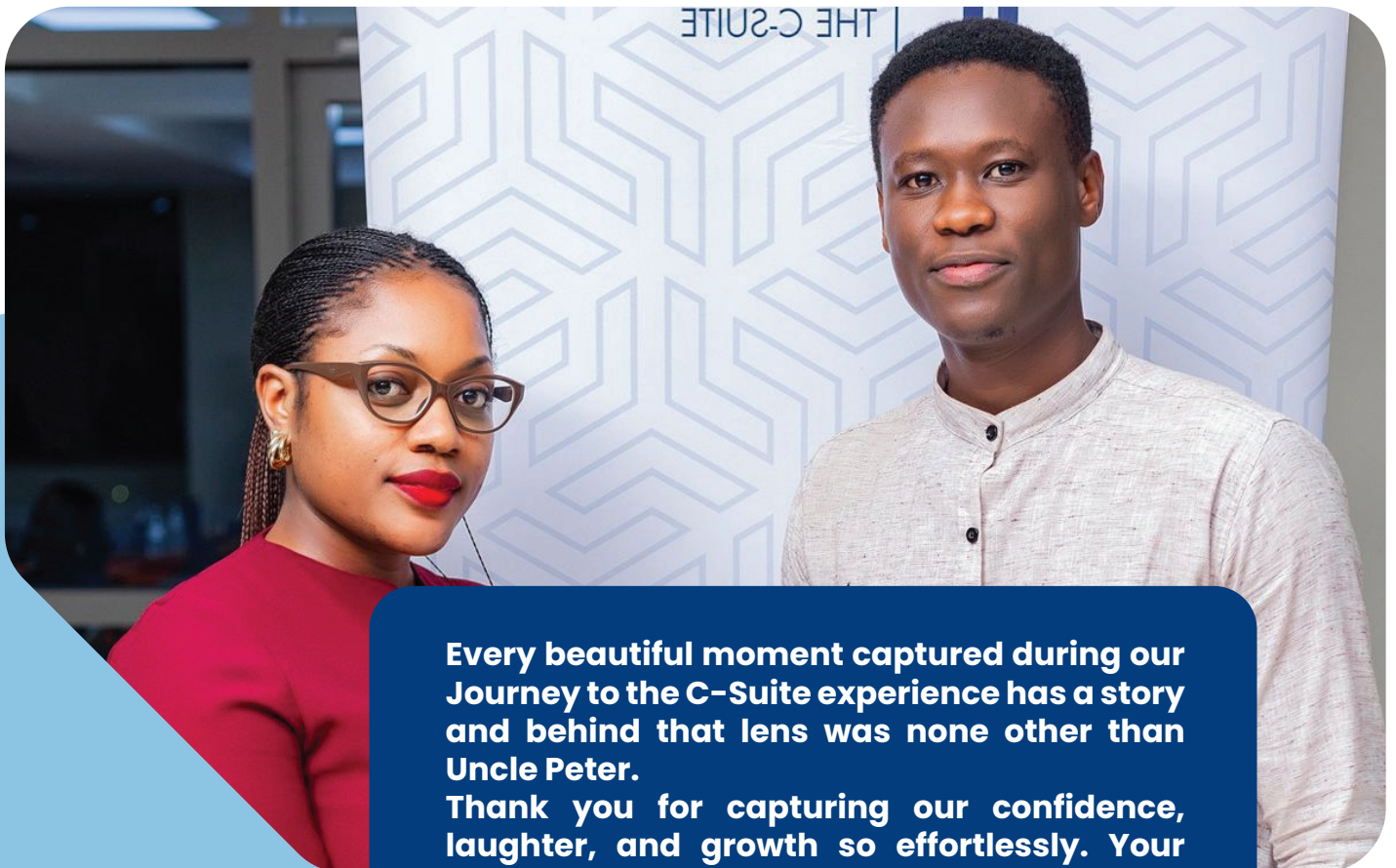
Readiness for the C-Suite isn't just about skills, it's about clarity of purpose, measurable impact, and the courage to keep growing." —SILVIA MULOMI-EXECUTIVE HEAD PEOPLE & CULTURE STANBIC BANK UGANDA



"When entrusted with leadership, integrity means acting even when the cameras are off, letting your decisions leave things better than you found them." JENNIFER MUSISI-FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KCCA AND NOW CITY LEADER IN RESIDENCE AT THE BLOOMBERG HARVARD CITY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE & SENIOR ADVISOR AT THE IGC. INTERNATIONAL GROWTH CENTRE (IGC)



Beyond the lessons, the late nights, and the leadership growth, it's the sisterhood that makes this journey truly special. Grateful for the power of connection, collaboration, and courage shared with these phenomenal women



Every beautiful moment captured during our Journey to the C-Suite experience has a story and behind that lens was none other than Uncle Peter. Thank you for capturing our confidence, laughter, and growth so effortlessly. Your lens didn't just take pictures, it told our story of leadership, friendship, and purpose. I see you, Uncle Peter and I am grateful!



Every class, every high tea they made it an experience. From the beautifully curated setups to the delicious tea and snacks that kept our conversations flowing, you made every session feel special. Thank you, Victoria and team, for serving with excellence, grace, and such contagious warmth. You reminded us that leadership is also about creating moments of joy and connection.



What a journey it's been with the NGUVU girls! filled with learning, laughter, purpose, and power! Each of you has brought strength, grace, and brilliance to every moment of our Journey to the C-Suite. Thank you for the sisterhood, the support, and the unstoppable energy that defines Team Nguvu. Together, we've proved that when women rise together, we create impact that echoes beyond the C-suite



We showed up to class giving “Team Coordination” without even trying! Sometimes it’s the unplanned moments, the matching colors, the laughter, the shared energy, that make the Journey to the C-Suite even more memorable.



Some people don't just create programs — they create possibilities. Janet, thank you for birthing the Journey to the C-Suite, a space where leaders are shaped, stories are rewritten, and confidence is restored. Through your vision, countless of us have found our voice, our courage, and our community. Your grace, strength, and authenticity continue to inspire us to dream bigger, lead boldly, and walk with purpose. With deep gratitude, thank you for leading from the heart.



Every strong team has a guiding light. And for Team Nguvu, that light has been you, Linda. Thank you for leading us with wisdom, patience, and such genuine care. You didn't just coach us; you inspired us to stretch beyond comfort, to lead with authenticity, and to embrace our individual strengths. Your mentorship made this journey richer, more intentional, and deeply transformative. We are stronger, bolder, and more united because of you





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THE C-SUITE

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