



For Immediate Release: April 23, 2013

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NEW YORK ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST BUSINESS OMBUDSWOMAN

Mwisa Chisunka will help ensure streamlined services for business community

[Empire State Development](#) and the [New York State Department of Taxation and Finance](#) today announced the appointment of Mwisa Chisunka as New York State Business Ombudswoman and Director of Business Tax Services and Education.

As New York's first Ombudswoman, Ms. Chisunka will work closely with the business community to provide education about tax law developments, answer questions, and help businesses navigate the issue resolution process. She will also launch pro-business programs as part of [Governor Andrew M. Cuomo](#)'s Open for Business initiative.

"The appointment of a Business Ombudswoman builds on our success in making New York a business-friendly state. It will help businesses of all sizes achieve their goals – to thrive and grow," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. Ms. Chisunka will partner with chambers of commerce, small business development centers, major trade associations, and nonprofit organizations across the state. She will identify opportunities to streamline and enhance effective tax administration, providing input to Regional Economic Development Councils, appropriate State agencies, and the Commission on Tax Reform and Fairness, which is focused on modernizing the tax system to enhance New York's business climate.

"Mwisa is a successful and experienced advocate who has helped thousands of business owners and individual taxpayers resolve their tax issues," said Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Thomas H. Mattox. "She's the right choice to serve as New York's first Business Ombudswoman. We look forward to continue working with her to improve the business tax climate."

Ms. Chisunka joins Empire State Development after four years of leading the Tax Department's downstate outreach efforts with advocacy and professional groups. Previously she was a senior analyst and policy operations coordinator with the New York State Senate. She graduated from Colgate University and holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Nelson A. Rockefeller School of Public Affairs and Policy.

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Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "[I Love NY](#)," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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