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ROLE OF A RESEARCHER

- The role of the Researcher for the Standing Committee on Finance is to:
- Provide preparatory research papers in support of relevant Committee meeting to capacitate Members to engage effectively.
- On-going provision of proactive research papers on topical issues and analyses of reports.

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LEGISLATION AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Summary and analysis of Bills, Acts or Policies (before the Committee or interest to the Committee).
- Comparative analysis in support of legislation or policies.
- Research papers on matters emanating from the deliberations on legislation or policies.

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OVERSIGHT

- Summary and analysis of the State of the Nation Address (SONA), Budgets, Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, Quarterly reports, Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), Adjusted Estimates of National Expenditure, and annual reports.
- Research papers on sector specific topics arising from the committee programme and strategic objectives.

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OVERSIGHT VISITS

- Identification of oversight sites and issues for consideration on oversight visits, based on research undertaken.
- Background and preparation packs prior to the oversight visit.
- Research assistance (on-site research support) during oversight.
- Following the oversight visit, identification of issues for further research and identification of broader implications for the sector, which will be used to feed into the Committee programme, strategic planning, future legislative and policy proposals.

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STUDY TOURS (INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL)

- Identification of sites/countries and issues for consideration on study tour, based on the research or comparative studies undertaken.
- Background/preparatory papers/information packs prior to the study tour.
- Following the study tour, identification of issues for further research and identification of the broader implications for the sector, which will be used to feed into the Committee programme, strategic planning, future legislative and policy proposals

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STRATEGIC RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Sector input into strategic planning and development of the Committee of the Programme.
- Presentations to the Committee in preparation for meetings, visits, study tours.
- Attendance at Committee meetings and assisting with issues of clarification on the matter before the Committee, based on research findings.
- Attend Committee management meetings.
- Research support to individual Members of the Committee.

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KEY OBSERVATION FROM STAKEHOLDERS (AUDITOR-GENERAL)

- **National Treasury:**
- Five year audit history: Unqualified audit opinion – with findings.
- Material misstatement in financial statements.
- Human Resource issues: High vacancy rate in highly skilled/supervisory positions
- **Stats SA:**
- Five year audit history: Unqualified audit opinion (with findings) for four years. Qualified in 2011/12 – due to incorrect accounting for accruals because of 2011 census.

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KEY NATIONAL POLICIES OVERSSEN BY THE COMMITTEE

- Committee tasked with overseeing national policies aimed at stimulating economic growth, reducing unemployment and inequality with the purpose of eradicating poverty.
- Chapter 3 of the National Development Plan: Economy and Employment - is particularly relevant to the work of the Committee.
- Stimulating economic growth requires that identified barriers are overcome. The NDP emphasizes the importance of rebuilding confidence and encourage private investment.
- Committee's responsibility to oversee National policies that remove these barriers and promote economic growth and job creation.

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KEY INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS OVERSSEN BY THE COMMITTEE

- Revision of Tax treaty agreements between South Africa and other countries.
- Amendment conventions between South Africa And other countries.
- New Tax treaty agreements with other countries.

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