

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, ANTON JORDAAN

"A roller coaster year" seems like a fitting description for the past season — it had exhilarating highs, like Tatjana's historic Olympic achievements, and difficult lows, such as the Hillcrest Pool closure due to water restrictions.

Ockert de Villiers wrote on 31 July 2024: "Tatjana Smith is the personification of a ray of sunshine. But behind her smile, Smith hides the killer instinct that has seen her rise to the apex of female breaststroke swimming." Tatjana's legacy in South African swimming is remarkable, and her retirement marks the end of an era. Winning a gold in 100 breaststroke and a silver medal in 200 breaststroke at the 2024 Paris Olympics is an extraordinary feat. This makes her only the fourth South Africa athlete to win two gold medals at the Olympic Games.

Coach Rocco Meiring's guidance also deserves immense recognition—having coached five of the eight 2024 South African Olympic swimmers is no small accomplishment. Congratulations coach Rocco.

Despite the obstacles with facilities, NTS have dominated results of events throughout the season. This must be a testament of the passion and dedication of its coaches. We at NTS are privileged to have this calibre of coaches and instructors as our members.

The success of SSA Level 3 and the steady growth of level 1 swimmers speaks volumes about the strength of our long-term athlete development approach.

Our technical officials support our athletes on various levels and this result in technical sound events in support of our athletes. The contribution made by these volunteers is acknowledged and appreciated.

We also must acknowledge the contribution of our administrators in the successes achieved by NTS. Gratitude must go to Magdaleen Fair and Natasha da Silva.

We have mentioned our challenges in previous annual reports, but funding, a changing society and environment, increased crime and aging facilities remain some of the biggest challenges.

It's clear that NTS is more than just an organization—it's a passionate and resilient community. May the next season bring even more milestones and solutions to the ongoing challenges. Here's to continued growth and excellence!

**Anton Jordaan**  
**PRESIDENT NTS**