

28/01/2003

MSA: Need for skydivers to be united

THE Malaysian Skydiving Association (MSA) hopes that future skydiving events will be properly sanctioned so the public can differentiate between the various forms of the sport.

MSA patron Major (Rtd) Datuk Paduka Ghazali Ibrahim in saying so, described the record-breaking feat of 15 skydivers jumping off the Petronas Twin Towers on New Year's Eve as a wrongfully sanctioned event.

"That was what we refer to as base jumping, where people jump from buildings, antennas, spans and erections. You certainly can't call that skydiving," said Ghazali.

The event to mark the New Year was called the Malaysia SkyVenture TransMillennium World Record Extreme Skydive, and was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad along with thousands of others.

"We are regularly conducting seminars to educate more people about this sport in order for it to grow. This is why we need the unity of procedure, training and handling of skydiving," said Ghazali.

"We have a lot of qualified instructors but the techniques used are different. This is why I call upon all those involved in skydiving to be united with us and be recognised internationally by the International Aeronautical Federation," he added.