

## Umno condemns magazine report on Mahathir-Lunas issue

PETALING JAYA, Thurs: Umno has denied a claim by *Asiaweek* magazine that party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was blamed for the party's Lunas by-election defeat.

Its executive secretary, Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, said today the magazine, which reported that a

SUN 2.2.2001  
supreme council member had chastised Mahathir on the defeat, was "trying to put Umno leaders at loggerheads".

*Asiaweek*, in its Jan 26 issue, quoted a "party member" who said supreme council member Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad had told Mahathir during a December

council meeting that Mahathir was the cause of the ruling party's defeat in the Lunas by-election.

The article, titled *Mahathir's Dilemma*, said Mahathir was "humiliated in front of his lieutenants", while his "tormentor walks away with his head still intact".

Tengku Adnan said the

article is a "blatant lie and unfair reporting", adding that this could be because *Asiaweek* was overzealous in trying to create an issue out of the election defeat.

In a letter to the Hongkong-based magazine, he told the editor to be responsible and objective in reporting Umno issues in the future.