

**THE SUNDAY
TIMES**

**SECURITY
REPORT**



New LTTE drive on vehicles

While there is a lull in fighting between the security forces and separatist terrorists, the LTTE appears to have embarked on a programme to take direct control of civil administration in the Jaffna peninsula.

With this in mind, the LTTE has already set up what it calls its own "Department for Registration of Motor vehicles in Tamil Eelam."

In a so-called press statement issued to Jaffna based newspapers, the LTTE has said the specific task of this department would be to register motor vehicles operating in the Jaffna peninsula.

"All persons who are in possession of motor vehicles of any description are required to have their vehicles registered. Persons having their registration books issued by the Commissioner of Motor Traffic in Colombo and persons who do not have such books are required to make their applications to the Department of Registration of Motor Vehicles in Tamil Eelam to have their vehicles registered with the Department," says the LTTE press statement.

It adds: "The applications for registration of all motor vehicles have to be made in the appropriate forms available at the Department and obtainable on paying a fee of two rupees. In the course of time the Department will issue Registration Books to those in possession of motor vehicles within Tamil Eelam. Already a large number of persons have sent in their applications for registration of their motor vehicles."

The latest move is an exercise to boost the LTTE coffers which are running dry. But the biggest question it poses is whether the Government is obliged to provide fuel regularly and thus acknowledge it is helping the LTTE to gradually set up its own civil administration machinery.

Government sources say the entire matter had to be carefully viewed in the backdrop of the new developments.