

INTENSIVE WORKS in the education sector

Kevin Sciberras

Communications Co-ordinator
Ministry for Gozo

An intensive exercise carried out by the Ministry for Gozo to refurbish Gozitan schools will be reaping the benefit in the forthcoming weeks. The Hon. Minister Giovanna Debono lately instructed Architect Maurice Galea to draw up a detailed report regarding the maintenance and refurbishment works required to provide better facilities in all Gozitan schools for the third millennium. Architect Galea's report includes a detailed study of all Gozitan public schools and plans of action to be carried out over the next 4 years. The Heads of Schools concerned and the Education Monitoring Board within the Ministry for Gozo were actively involved and consulted on the drawing up of this report.

The first part of this report which will be implemented by the end of this year includes several ambitious projects. The need has long been felt to develop the existing building of the Post-Secondary School Sir M. A. Refalo to incorporate four science and computer laboratories and



new classrooms. These works started last October, and the first phase of the structural works is ready. In the coming weeks, during the summer holidays, maintenance and refurbishment works including plastering, aperture and door fixtures and tile laying will be carried out. The last phase of this project which includes the preparation and installation of all the laboratory apparatus will commence by the end of the summer holidays. In the meantime, in this same school, works are being carried out to increase the number of classes for the growing number of students to further their post-secondary studies. In the next scholastic year, it is deemed that the number of students may total around 600. The refurbishment and maintenance works of these new classrooms are being carried out by the CMU - Ministry for Gozo workers.

The first phase of this report includes other works which will be carried out in Gozitan public schools such as the enclosure with aluminium of all corridors of the Ninu Cremona Complex which are currently exposed to all natural elements; the refurbishment and upgrading of all the toilets at the Agius de Soldanis School; the replacement of the existing windows which are in a very bad state by new aluminium windows for the Sannat Primary School, and the building of new glass houses at the Agriculture and Building School in Xewkija.

Another important project which will be carried out during this year is the upgrading of the power system of the Qala Primary School as well as the refurbishment and upgrading works needed in the classrooms, offices and



library of the same school. When this project is ready and fully implemented, the Qala Primary School will be a model to other Gozitan schools.

In the meantime, another detailed report is being drawn up for the upgrading of the Institute for Tourism Studies premises in Qala as well as the upgrading of the existing courses of the same Institute. This project will be divided

into two phases, and one of these phases will be implemented by the end of this year. The first phase will include the upgrading of the kitchen and restaurant area to meet the tourist industry requirements, and the second phase will include the embellishment of the two storey hostel as part of the same campus of the I.T.S. This hostel will also be used by the ITS students to carry out their practical lessons.