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Government embarks on €36 million fortification upgrade



Valletta, Vittoriosa, Mdina and the Ċittadella in Gozo have been selected by the government for major restoration and rehabilitation projects.

These four projects entail a substantial investment, involving some 135,000m² of rampart elevations over a combined perimeter length of around 6km at an estimated cost (including some rehabilitation and floodlighting) of around €36 million spread over a period of seven years.

The projected works, tenders for which have been under preparation for the past two years, will enable large parts of the historic ramparts to be cleaned, repaired, and opened to the public as places of cultural and leisure activities.

The selection of these sites was announced by Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

George Pullicino during a public seminar entitled Fortifications Restorations Project, organised by the Works Division.

Dr Pullicino said that despite the architectural significance, the larger part of Malta's architectural heritage is to be found in a poor state of preservation. The effort that is now necessary to redress this state of affairs is a massive undertaking.

He said that aware of the scale and magnitude of such a task, the government had sought to benefit from the assistance offered by the European Union through its various programmes to fund the study, documentation, and intervention of our historic fortifications.

Besides these capital works, the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs will also be carrying out its routine programmes of rescue interventions on parts of the other fortifications. Other interventions are planned for the near future at St Christopher Bastion (Valletta) and Fort Ricasoli.
