



The newly-refurbished Mtarfa sports complex will be hosting various sporting activities once again including judo, recalling the days when Maltese judokas challenged their counterparts from the British armed forces.

Restored and extended Mtarfa gym inaugurated

Kenneth Xuereb

A 100-year-old sports complex at Mtarfa was reopened yesterday after being restored on the initiative of the Housing Authority.

Built at the turn of the century, the complex was used by the British services but deteriorated rapidly after the forces left in 1979.

Housing Minister Alfred Portelli yesterday handed over the keys of the complex to the parliamentary secretary responsible for sports, Joe Cilia, saying that works on the restoration started last September and were completed in record time.

The original parquet floor has been restored and the building extended to include changing rooms, showers, administration offices, lecture room, stores and a first aid room.

Basketball, volleyball and fencing can be practised in the Lm97,000 complex.

Mr Portelli said the Housing

Authority, which was in overall charge of development at Mtarfa, had set up a committee to monitor complaints by residents over the housing project there and to cooperate closely with the Mtarfa residents association so that past mistakes would not be repeated.

The authority built a town centre, provided premises for shops, restored the sports complex and set up a garden. Land has been provided for a church.

The minister said 56 maisonettes have been completed and allocated and work on a further 40 houses was in the finishing stages. The building of a further 30 maisonettes was in hand and would be completed later this year.

Yesterday's ceremony included an abseiling and martial arts display by the Bujinkan Brian Dojo group, a judo display by the Malta Judo Association and singing by young singer Marija Muscat.

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House of representatives

Today's sitting

The House of Representatives is due to resume its debate on a bill to introduce the breathalyser test when it

meets this afternoon. Other items on the agenda include a bill to amend the Excise Duties Act.

In danger of dying

A young man, Christian Borg Cardona, was fighting for his life last night after a traffic accident on the Regional Road. Borg Cardona was in a car involved in col-

lision with other vehicles near the Regional Road tunnels close to Paceville.

Borg Cardona had to be extracted by the SAG rescue team.