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a roof, in Puerto Plata's Free Zone.

BMW had previously indicated they would not consider opening up further manufacturing plants in the Caribbean after the failure of their Jamaican Mini plant in 2002. The Kingston plant lost just short of US\$242 million in BMW's bid to bring the trendy Mini to the Jamaicans using local variations such as the 'Mini Irie', the 'Mini Dibby-Dibby' and the reggae-inspired 'Mini Bob Marley's mi Uncle'.

BMW have since concentrated on the European

and North American markets where people have too much money.

The C1 motorcycle was an amazing success in Europe when it was launched in 2001. Buyers could not get enough of the wacky design which included a roof to stop bodies thrown from apartment building windows from hitting the rider's head. It even had the added advantage of stopping some raindrops from hitting the rider as long as the bike was in a vertically straight position, i.e. not going round corners.

Our reporter contacted BMW to speak to the man behind the decision to start manufacturing in the Dominican



The BMW brand is already synonymous with spacious comfort and elegance in the Far East.



The failed "Mini Bob Marley's mi Uncle" didn't perform too well in the wind-tunnel.

Republic, but apparently he had fallen from an 15th storey apartment building window the week before, narrowly missing all 37 of the parked C1's – and was unavailable for comment.

Instead we were able to meet up with Heinz Krumpf-Lindenberg, the marketing guru from BMW's HQ in Munich about the new manufacturing facility and their reasons for investing in the Dominican Republic. We met up with him in a trendy down-town cocktail bar in Puerto Plata.

"Mr Krumpf-Lindenberg, may I call you Heinz?"

"Yes, certainly!"

"Where I come from, Heinz meanz beanz."

"Ah weelly? Zat could explain a few things."

"Heinz, what can you tell us about the new products BMW intend to build and sell here in the Dominican Republic?"

"Ah, I am so glad you asked. We are proud to be launching our new motorcycle, the C1B, or 'Clit Bang' as we call it, vich ve zink vill do verry vell in ze Dominican Republic. It has been specially designed to accommodate more people than ze average moto. It has an extra seat at ze back, which a small family viz livestock could sit on, and there are large handles sticking out each side which will allow extra people to hang on. The most innovative idea is the roof, which allows you to balance any items on ze top above ze rider.

You could strap a wardrobe or two mattresses and a bottle of gas to the top, or maybe some extra seats for ze school kids. Zere are so many possibilities, I get ze goose-bumps just zinking about zem."

"Well it certainly sounds interesting."

"Yes, it iz. Let me introduce my colleague, Mr Britney Spearzen Von Trapp."

"Hello Mr Von Trapp. Hopefully you aren't going to speak in that strange fake German accent?"

"Guten Morgen mein amigo! Oops!...i did it again."

"So, what can you tell us about this amazing new bike?"

"Of course, we realize that music is very important in your country. The Clit Bang will have four large speakers attached to the sides and two in the roof. Where we would normally put twin airbags, we've managed to fit a 2000 watt amplifier. We don't think it needs a graphic equaliser, we'll just set all the channels to be as high as possible – sure, it makes the speakers rattle a bit, but we think everybody will love it."

"We will be launching three separate editions of the Clit Bang, the Merengue, the Bachata and the Reggaeton which will have the lowered suspension, skirts around the wheels, go-faster stripes and an up-rated amplifier."

"I noticed that the Clit Bang does not appear to have any indicators?"

"Yes, you are quite correct. In our extensive market research, we noticed that the Dominican drivers do not ever

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BMW Clit Bang Specifications

For those of you car boffins who are even remotely interested in the stats, here they are:

- 125cc 4.6 liters V6 front engine with 93 mm bore, 84 mm stroke, 10 compression ratio, double overhead cam and three and a half valves per cylinder
- Six-speed all-wheel drive automatic transmission with performance-tuned manual paddle shifting.
- Magnetic Ride Control (MRC) adaptive suspension system
- Heavily bolstered Recaro sport seats. They adjust 14 ways, with pneumatic machismo bolster controls in the seat cushion and backrest.
- Strut front suspension independent with stabilizer bar and coil springs, trailing arm rear suspension independent with stabilizer bar and coil springs
- Automatic rear suspension levelling with PHATS (Pot-hole Anticipation Triplex System)
- Door ajar warning which will be on all the time, Door entry light also on.
- Door pockets/bins for driver seat and passenger seat
- Illuminated driver, passenger and livestock vanity mirror
- Ventilation system with recirculation setting and micro filter
- Front and rear reading lights
- Front seat center armrest with compartment for a large beer or bottle of rum.
- Automatic operation rear view mirror
- ASD - Automatic Squirting Device for fending off windscreen washer boys.
- Remote audio controls with AMBR-SD – (Automatic Merengue/Bachata/Regaeton Switching Device)
- Remote fuel filler door release
- Remote control remote trunk/hatch release

As you can see – similar but slightly higher spec than the 2008 Toyota Camry GLS.