

Police to use new speed guns



A Gringo Enquirer Exclusive

LOCAL TRAFFIC POLICE are to start utilising new speed gun technology in order to reduce road congestion.

Our reporter was able to gain exclusive footage of the police using the new devices in a pilot test just outside Puerto Plata.

Unlike other countries, the Dominican Republic has a different set of traffic issues to contend with. The Ministry of Transport have identified that one of the made causes for the traffic congestion are the potholes that are appearing on all the major roads. The chief reason for all the holes is not the weight of motorised traffic, or the weakness of the roads, or the drainage problems, but rather the donkeys, asses and mules that are still being used - despite warnings - to transport items around the cities.

Clearly, most of the motorised traffic currently around has carefully designed tyres made from various rubber compounds. As we understand it, rubber is a soft material, and unlikely to have any effect on the hard tarmac that makes up the road surface. On the other hand, donkeys' hooves are extremely hard, and some donkeys have been seen to be scraping their hooves in a deliberate attempt to gouge into the road surface.

The Ministry of Transport have come up with a plan to get donkeys off the roads, and into the fields where they belong. The new speed guns will actually be used to identify culprits who are travelling too slowly for

the road conditions. As donkeys rarely travel above 30 mph, they should be easy to identify with the Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) guns.

The new technology has been imported from the UK, where speed guns have been used to annoy motorists effectively for years, although they had to undergo several modifications in order to work correctly here.

Instead of measuring the vehicle's speed by testing how long it takes the gun's signal to return, the modified devices send out several small bursts of infra red light at short intervals to measure the distance between the donkey's ears. As the rider will usually have quite different ears to the donkey, the measurement can be quite precise.

The information is then compared with how fast the donkey thinks it should be going in rela-

tion to how fast a 'moto' driver laden up with an adult passenger, 2 children and a fridge-freezer would normally be expected to travel, according to Feynmann's 'Integral all over paths' law on quantum mechanics.

Unlike the typical speed gun, the algorithm processing is not done in the gun itself, but instead, the data is sent back to HQ where culprits are identified, photos compared with the MOT's database of known offenders and tickets later issued.

It is hoped that the police will be able to successfully deter donkey owners from recklessly endangering other road users with their outdated and unsuitable mode of transport. This should encourage the uptake amongst the younger generation of the new efficient, quiet and emissionless 'motos' which have started to appear on the roads.

$$\frac{1}{N(t-t_0)} \int_{x_0, t_0}^{x, t} \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\dot{x}(t'), x(t')) dt'\right) d(\text{paths})$$

Feynmann's 'Integral all over paths'

Police have also been issued with canisters of 'pepper spray', although it's not confirmed whether these were for use on the donkeys or their riders.

Story by Gringo Mack B. Leave

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 • An opera is a song •
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The future of transportation - Photo by Gringo Pottluck

Government to invest millions in Puerto Plata

The Dominican government has announced that it is to spend thousands of millions of pesos further developing the Puerto Plata region, particularly Sosúa, Cabarete, Puerto Plata, Imbert, Luperón, and Villa Isabela.

This announcement was made by President Leonel Fernandez who also stated that "he loves the area". The importance of the area as a tourism center has prompted new moves to add further attractions and improve existing facilities.

The Secretary of Tourism, Félix Jiménez, said that the investment in Sosúa and Cabarete is "enormous". Construction is planned for the Villa Liberación housing complex in La Unión Sosúa, that seeks to improve the quality of life for hundreds of families in the barrio of El Tablón, and also a modern botanical gardens is planned to increase the attractions for tourists in Sosua.

A modern hospital is to be built in Sosua to improve the medical facilities both for residents and visiting tourists.

The government also has plans for Cabarete, specifically the regeneration its beach, improvements to the roads and conservation work on its lake.

Jiménez recently appeared in the Perspectivas del Circuito Musa program and mentioned that they intended to construct a line of restaurants in the Cosita Rica area around the regenerated beach. Also, a boat jetty and a wharf for the tourist, with the intention of improving the whole ambience of the area.

The ancient colonial fortress San Felipe in Puerto Plata will also be improved with the construction of an amphitheater.

The Tourism Secretary also criticized the "rich of Puerto Plata", when he said that they are not investing their money in the area enough. He indicated that many would prefer to invest abroad before their own country and then criticize the foreigners who do invest here.

The government also intends to construct a main road connecting the North-East with the North region.