

Java Sugar Mill Blog Part 6
29 July 2017
Situbondo

A disused railway station and a small market

This bonus blog covers the very specialised and the general so I'll start with the general. I did a walk this morning to the old railway station at Situbondo. As well as being on the main line from Jember to the port of Panarukan, there was also once a short branch into Situbondo town proper. This had to cross a substantial river which is why the mainline stayed the other side of the river. The mainline survived until the early 2000s but the town branch went in the 1960s or 70s or possibly earlier. Does anyone know?

Let's start with the small market I found on the way back.



It was around 9 am so the market was already quiet. Most shopping is probably done before 8 am. The roots on display are galangal and lesser galangal - relatives of ginger - and used extensively in South East Asian cooking along with potatoes, spring onions, limes and garlic. The market is called Pasar Sumberkolak.



These children had been left to play with a kitten while their father was shopping.



Cats were a feature and the one on the left had a bone to gnaw on at the sold out butcher's stall.



These friendly folk wanted to know where I was from and to have their photos taken.

I'll move on to the railway station which was my main objective. Here is the station name board on the end of the station when approaching from Panarukan. (+30M is the height above seas level)





This is the east end of the station with the mainline platform on the left. The branch to town went from the right side and the approach road must have gone that side as well.



This is the toilet block at the west end along with the last item of rolling stock - a box van probably used by track workers.



This is the main platform looking west.



These two tall girder posts one at each end of the station are a bit of a mystery. I presume they had a signalling function. Does anyone know what they were for?



To the east of the station is a small warehouse. This is the road side of it, the railway side behind is almost identical but was the wrong way for the light.



The box car has SS visible on the axle boxes. That stands for Stadt Spoorweg (or similar - excuse my Dutch) - the State Railways in Dutch times.



The signal and possibly point controls at the east end of the station platform.
The levers are labelled Dari (from) Panarukan and Dari (from) Prajakan.



This is a view inside the booking hall.



The booking hall looking the other way.



Looking towards Panarukan. The sign declares that the state railway PT Kai still owns the trackbed. Mount Ringgit is in the background. I've walked the track as far the Wringinanom flat crossing with the sugar lines in the past but not today.



Looking from the west back towards the station, the points for the branch to town are still in place. The major dirt track to the left of the station is the old line of the railway branch.



This is the solid Dutch bridge over the canal seen in the previous picture.



Leaving the station, the town branch crossed over this bridge over the canal.



It came out of the green building on the right and then ran left along the road.



This is the substantial river gorge it had to cross.



The road bridge on the left is the older of the two and most likely the one that the railway used unless it used an earlier bridge on the same alignment.



After that, it gets difficult. The railway had to traverse a 90 degree curve to make the turn onto the main street of Situbondo. This must be the start of the curve with the blue and white rail marker on the right a sign of the railway's right of way.



There is one more blue and white post beyond the wall shown in the previous photo (and behind the photographer here) and this passageway must be the continuation of the curve. The line has been built over after that. Although I have never positively identified it, the old town station in the centre of town may still survive either as a shop or a residence. I must have a look for it.

John Raby, Situbondo, 31 July 2017