MATARA-BELIATTA RAILWAY-EXTENSION; PART III
- A HIGH QUALITY MODERN RAILWAY-LINE AT EXORBITANT OVERALL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES WITH NO RETURN OF THE MASSIVE INVESTMENT COSTS

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January 2019
On 04th of January 2019 a Chinese build DMU, Class S 11, maid a Maiden-and Test-Run for local passengers between Matara and Beliatta:

With this 26 km extension Sri Lanka got the first time a modern high quality rail-track design. The track is resting on a broad over 8 m wide and well drained formation with a thick sub-ballast and ballast bed. The 60 kg 880 MPa rails are of European standard E 1/R260, rolled in China, flash-butt welded to a Continuous Welded Rail Track (CWR) and laid on Indian concrete sleepers with Indian galavanised MARK III ERC Fastening. The turnouts are manufactured in India and of 1 in 12.5 geometry with long curved tongue-rails and sturdy cast manganese-iron Vee-crossings. The point-motors are coming from Australia. The switch expansion joints are of the last Indian design delivered by Rahee Industries, Kolkata.

On 19th January 2019 the author went on a fact-finding inspection tour; see attached Picture Gallery. The rail-track is ready. However, not all point-motors mounted. The infrastructure with signaling system, electric power supply and railway stations with their road access had not been ready in operational conditions. Works had been still going on:
Perfect ballasted Rail-Track on deep Sub-Ballast and broad Formation = a teaching shining Sample for reengineering, modernising and refurbishing the aling, un-sound and un-healthy poor ballasted and drained Rail Tracks of Sri Lanka Railways; see Pictures on Page 7.
Some of the Indian manufactured galvanised MARK III ERC Rail-Clips are still inserted in the shoulder-plate housings the wrong way from left to right instead from right to left, and some Clips have already loosened:
Wrong inserted Mark III ERC Rail-Clip

Correct inserted Mark III ERC Rail-Clip, but already loose

The Railway Stations are provided with long platforms with solid roofings. The double store station- and halt-buildings can be attributed with the adjectives "gorgeous, superb, opulent, impressive, magnificent and
The project is splendid” in no relation to the economy and dwelling density of the remote region. International publications figure the overall investment costs for this 26 km line of up to 1000 Million (one Billion) US Dollars.

This capital investment sum should have been better invested in modernization and upgrading of the dilapidated rail-tracks and stations in deplorable state-of-affairs of the country.

At least, the superb Matara-Beliatta Railway Extension can now serve as a shining teaching sample for Srilankan Railway Engineers for how a modern Railway-Track and Infrastructure have to be designed, engineered and constructed. The track-features used on the Beliatta section should now be used for upgrading the ailing rail-tracks under the Colombo Suburban Railway Project (CSRP); see F.A. Wingler COLOMBO SUBURBAN RAILWAY PROJECT (CSRP) – an ambitious Project; applicable and feasible technical Solutions; published on: January 20, 2019 free for download under http://www.drwingler.com; see also page 7 of Picture Gallery.

PICTURE GALLERY

A well ballasted and drained new Rail-Track
Ailing, un-sound and unhealthy SLR "Ballast-less" Tracks waiting to be refurbished according the Features of the Matara-Beliatta Rail-Track

Ailing SLR "MAIN-LINE" Rail-Tracks waiting for Ballast, Sub-Ballast and Drainage.
Track with Guard-Rails on elevated Concrete Deck Structure over Nilvala Flood-Plain

Elevated Structure over the Nilvala Flood Plain
Weherahena Railway Halt under Construction

Weherahena Railway Halt under Construction
Weherahena Railway Halt under Construction

Indian 1 in 12 Turnout with Australian Pointmotor at Kekanadura
Wrong and correct inserted Rail-Clip, Kekanadura

Wrong inserted Indian Mark III Clips at Kekanadura
Kekanadura Railway Station in Progress
Powerline not yet connected at Beliatta

Beliatta Railway Station in Progress
Australian Point-Motor at Beliatta still in Boxes
Walasgala Railway Station in Progress

Beliatta Railway Station in Progress
Beliatta Railway Station in Progress
Works at Beliatta Railway Station in Progress