Sanya 2020 – a tale of woe

Shortly before the start of the leg from Dondra to Sanya a wave of national power cuts began, lasting 3 hours at a time, throughout the day and night. This is still in place at time of writing.

Added to that, both undersea internet cables feeding South Africa along the west coast of Africa, failed simultaneously, caused by cable breaks. An unheard-of occurrence for both to go down.

The internet was so slow [when one could acquire a connection] that the SOL flash client could not load the weather at all. The new html client, however, loaded after about 38 minutes, taking roughly 7 minutes to change heading. It dropped connection repeatedly.

Thus, it seemed the only option was to let Sebensa head for the southern route via the Sunda Straits, sailing in open waters to the southern tip of Sumatra.

A few sailors also took this route, Smo, Ned_Arthur, StingFI, Captjack and a few others whom I now cannot recall, making up the "southern fleet". Not the optimum route, as I suspected and as it turned out.

Days of frustration with both the fickle winds and internet followed, as we watched the leaders break out of the dreaded Malacca Straits and head for Sanya, before we had even reached the tip of Sumatra

The "southern fleet" stuck to it though; Sebensa finally finishing 2 days 19 hours behind, outside the First 100 list.

A race of attrition, not easily forgotten. Congratulations to the podium!

And a word of gratitude to the SOL engine room crew, without whom SOL would simply not function.

Sebensa / February 2020