

22.2.2021_ The Sun_MOSTI_Pilot recounts “flight of a lifetime”

Pilot recounts ‘flight of a lifetime’

SEPANG: It was the most nerve-wracking hour in Capt Hamdan Che Ismail's 29-year career in the aviation industry, as he navigated Flight MH604 carrying the first batch of Covid-19 vaccines from Singapore to Malaysia yesterday.

Apart from flying the plane, Hamdan (pix) also needed to ensure the correct temperature was maintained in the aircraft at all times, so as not to affect the efficacy of the vaccines, that must be stored at -70°C.

The Malaysia Airlines flight operations

director admitted he was a little nervous about the task.



“When I thought about the vaccine supply on the plane, I was worried that it could get spoilt. Thank God, it has now reached Malaysia.”

Flight MH604, carrying 312,390 doses of the vaccine, landed at the KL International Airport (KLIA) at 10.07am.

The Passenger-to-Cargo flight operated by MAB Kargo Sdn Bhd (MASKargo), which is the cargo arm of national carrier

Malaysia Airlines Bhd, used an Airbus 330-300 aircraft decorated with Jalur Gemilang livery.

Hamdan said he and five other crew members of the flight, namely an assistant pilot, two cabin crew, an officer from MASKargo and an engineer, left for Singapore at 6am and arrived there an hour later.

It took about two hours to transfer the vaccines onto the aircraft before it was allowed to take off again at about 9am.

“When I arrived at KLIA, I felt jubilant, overwhelmed and excited to have successfully brought the vaccines to the country,” he added. – Bernama