

6.7.2021_NST_MOSTI_US donation of 1 million Pfizer vaccine doses arrives

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia yesterday received one million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine contributed by the United States government for Malaysia's Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (NIP).

The contribution was part of the promise by US President Joe Biden's administration to share 80 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines with various countries, including parts of Asia.

The consignment was flown in by Raya Airways aircraft TH384, on behalf of DHL Express, which landed at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang at 8.10am.

Present at the airport for the arrival of the shipment were NIP Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and US ambassador to Malaysia Brian McFeeters.

Khairy, who is also science, technology and innovation minister, expressed Malaysia's appreciation to the US government for the contribution, which would accelerate the national vaccination drive.

He added that Malaysia was looking forward to continue working with the US and other

countries to secure access to more vaccines.

McFeeters said the consignment reflected the long-standing partnership on public health between Malaysia and the US.

The contribution, he said, also reflected the US government's commitment to provide assistance in any way possible to help Malaysia win the war against Covid-19.

"Yesterday was the US Independence Day. So, this is a great reflection of the partnership between Malaysia and the US."

"The US is committed to working with the Malaysian government to support its ongoing implementation of the NIP to increase vaccine coverage and to achieve its target for recovery," he said during a joint press conference with Khairy.

McFeeters added that the US was also determined to work with other countries to detect and prevent the next pandemic.

"We will use scientific and medical capabilities in that effort and we will partner with Malaysia on that as well," he said.

Khairy later announced that China will contribute 500,000 doses of the Sinovac-CoronaVac



(From left) Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, United States ambassador to Malaysia Brian McFeeters and Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin with the shipment of one million Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine doses donated by the United States government at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang yesterday. *BERNAMA FILE*

vaccine to help Malaysia in the fight against Covid-19.

Khairy said the shipment of the contribution from China was expected to arrive in the country in the middle of this month.

Meanwhile, according to Bernama, DHL Express Asia Pacific chief executive officer Ken Lee said the shipment was made possible via the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access (Covax) programme, which aimed to accelerate global equitable access to immunisation against the pandemic.

"We are deeply honoured by the trust that our customers have placed on us and I'm incredibly

proud that the team has yet again stepped up to successfully deliver another batch of Covid-19 vaccines to Malaysia."

"As DHL Express continues to leverage our global network and strong medical logistics expertise to ensure that these life-saving vaccines arrive safely and promptly, we must also remind ourselves of the need for collaboration among various parties and countries to manage this public health crisis effectively," he said in a statement yesterday.

DHL Express arranged for the collection of the vaccines from facilities in the US before it was

airlifted from its Cincinnati Hub to the DHL Express Subang Gateway, where it would be distributed to designated locations in Kuala Lumpur.

It said that from door-to-door, the journey spanned only four days in complete compliance with stringent handling and storage requirements.

DHL Express Malaysia and Brunei managing director Julian Neo said to date, DHL had transported more than 300 million doses of approved vaccines worldwide, five million of which were sent to Malaysia.

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