

# Thousands stuck in Thailand as sanctions squeeze Russia

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thousands of tourists from Russia are currently stranded in Thailand, officials said Tuesday, as unprecedented Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine put a squeeze on Russians struggling to find flights and finances.

Flight cancellations, a ruble currency in free fall and payment problems from Russian banks being cut off from the global SWIFT system has left more than 7,000 Russians in limbo in locations like Phuket, Koh Samui, Pattaya and Krabi, Thailand's tourism authority chief said.

"We have to be good hosts and take care of everybody," Yuthasak Supasorn told Reuters.

"There are still Russian tourists on their way here," he added.

Russia's embassy in Bangkok did not immediately respond to request for comment on its citizens.

In 2019, Thailand received 1.4 million Russian visitors. In January, it counted about 23,000 Russians, representing

about a fifth of the total arrivals.

About half of those stranded were on the island of Phuket.

"We've asked hotels to reduce prices and extend their stays," Phuket's tourism association president Bhumkittiruktaengam said.

Some visitors, when able, had used China's UnionPay after cards issued by Russian banks using U.S. payment firms Visa and Mastercard stopped working, he said.

Visa and Mastercard announced Saturday they were suspending oper-

ations in Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Russia has called its actions there a "special operation."

Though Thailand was among 141 countries that backed a United Nations resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops, it has not imposed any sanctions on Moscow.

Bhumkittiruktaengam said hundreds of people from Ukraine were also stranded, mainly due to airport closures there.

He said efforts were being made to get stranded Russians onto flights to



PHUKET: Tourists walk at the beach in Phuket, Thailand, on Tuesday. Jorge Silva/Reuters

Moscow on Middle Eastern airlines and to arrange repatriation flights.

A proposal was being considered to allow the use of cryptocurrency for payments at hotels, flights and other businesses in Phuket, he said.

**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPARTAMENTU SALUDY PUBLIKU YAN SESERSON SUSAOT

**EMS Commission & EMS for Children Advisory Committee Regular Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 2022  
at 10:00 AM (ChST)  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/932874178587?pwd=Rl9wSHdsczVDRjJlJlS2ZReiVlQmJmYU90>  
Meeting ID: 932 8741 7858  
Passcode: 546819

**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to order
- II. Confirmation of Publication
- III. Roll call
- IV. Elections of New Officers
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- VII. HPLD website
- VIII. Administrator's Report
- IX. Legal Counsel Report X. Committee Reports
- XI. Old Business
  - (a) Agency Reports (USNH, GMHA, GCC, GDOE, DPHSS, DPW, EMSC, EMD)
  - (b) EMS lifesaving award
  - (c) EMT of the year
  - (d) Paramedic Program Update
- XII. New Business
  - (a) EMS Conference
  - (b) Community Paramedic Outreach Program
  - (c) Call out for Representatives for EMS Week Activities which will be held on May 15-22, 2022 (c) EMS for Children Day Activities for May 17, 2022
  - (d) EMS for Children Day May 17, 2022
  - (e) Recertifications:
- XIII. Announcements
- XIV. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:  
<https://guamhpld.org/ems>  
To View the Streaming Visit  
<http://facebook.com/HPLDGuam>

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For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 475-8339.

In Loving Memory

*Daisy Guzman Ramirez*

Familian Udan / Dasu  
July 16, 1960 - February 16, 2022  
(Retired Administrator of Gov. Guam Department of Education)

*She will be welcomed at the gates of Heaven by her:*  
**Parents:** Norbert M. & Mariana C. Guzman  
**Parents In Law:** Jose B. & Carmen C. Ramirez

*Her love and memories will be missed and cherished forever in the hearts of her:*  
**Husband:** Sergio Ramirez  
**Children:** Sergio Ramirez Jr. & Tina Anderson (Mia Carmen, Khloe Naveen and Brian), Kyle Ramirez & Thomas Cruz, Daisy Santos Ramirez, II, Jose Guzman Ramirez & Antonese Santos (Liam Ashton, Ian Xander and Amaya), and Aaron Norbert Guzman Ramirez & Isa Herrera

**Brothers and Sisters & Spouses:**  
Debra Guzman & +Lucas Rios, Joaquin & Marion Guzman, +Karen & George Valenzo, Norbert Jr. & Elaine Guzman, Robert Guzman & Ciccy Samuel, +Angle Guzman, Allan Guzman, +Michael Guzman, Sandy & Jose Babauta, Jaynace Guzman, Mariana Christina Guzman, and +Bob Lee Guzman

**Brothers and Sisters In Law & Spouses:**  
Jose & Helen Ramirez, Elena & +Juan Bemal, +Tony Ramirez, Armstrong & Sandra Ramirez and Alicia Ramirez

*She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, God-children, and friends.*

Last respects will be held on Friday, March 11, 2022 from 8am - 11am at Guam Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Leyang, Barigada. Mass for a Christian Burial will be offered at 12:30pm at Our Lady of Purification Catholic Church in Maina. Interment will follow at Guam Memorial Park in Leyang, Barigada where we will bid her farewell and a peaceful rest.

*Si Ynosa Maise*  
Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated  
**The Family**