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*Philippine President Benigno Aquino III says he is aware that certain personalities conspired and brought about the situation*

# Aquino warns conspirators

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**MANILA:** Philippine President Benigno Aquino III warned yesterday that those who conspired with the Sulu sultan in pressing for his claim to Sabah will be penalised, China's Xinhua news agency reported.

Aquino said in a speech that the clan of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III could not have acted alone when they launched their attempt to "reclaim" Sabah.

"I am aware that certain personalities conspired and brought us to this situation — one that has no quick solution.

"Some of these people have not yet been identified. But I assure you that

these people will not succeed and that they will be brought to justice."

Aquino said the government had launched an investigation to uncover the people who may have incited Kiram's group to go to Sabah.

He urged the sultan and his followers to let reason prevail and prevent more bloodshed in Sabah.

In a telephone call on Saturday, Aquino said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak told him that negotiation was already impossible given the loss of life on the Malaysian side.

He said he appealed to the Malaysian side to ensure the safety of some

800,000 overseas Filipino workers in Malaysia.

Aquino expressed confidence that the peace talks between the former rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine government would not be derailed by the Sabah incident.

Malaysia is the third-party facilitator of the peace talks between the MILF and the Philippine government.

Aquino said it was in the interest of Malaysia to ensure that the peace process was concluded to ensure the stability of peace and order situation in Mindanao. **Bernama**