

**Philippine President Vows To Remove Politics In Sports**  
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MANILA, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Philippine President Benigno Aquino III vowed on Friday to remove politics from sports, reports Xinhua news agency.

Aquino made such a statement as the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission refused to recognize the Cobra Philippine Dragon Boat Team as an official national team.

Aquino received the Filipino paddlers in the Malacanang presidential palace after they won five gold medals and two silver medals at the 10th International Dragon Boat Federation World Championships held recently in Florida, USA.

"To those of you who really provide significant and positive role models to our country, I can assure you that the government will be behind you. We will strive especially to remove politics from sports which should be a unifying rather than a divisive activity," said Aquino, adding his office was studying on what reward to be given to the paddlers.

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