

D'TUARENS: SABAH'S SHOOTING STARS

BY ALMORE

TUARAN, Sun. — If ever there is a popular singing group in Sabah, the D'Tuareans can undoubtedly stake a claim. The group became a bright shooting star in the skies of Sabah and then the whole of Malaysia in March this year. We hope that this group would continue to entertain us and at the same time achieve their ultimate aim of being a popular group of high standing. We can safely say that the D'Tuareans from Sabah has vast potentiality to become popular nationally.

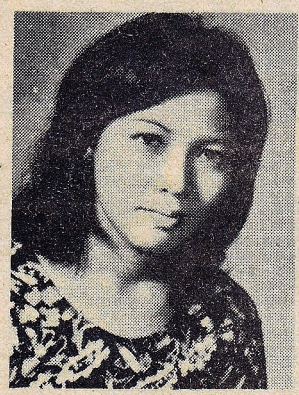
A few days ago while Kairo was repairing his car at 'Champion Motors', the young mechanics' and workers' faces brightened at the mention of D'Tuareans. It must be admitted at the outset that the D'Tuareans is really a group of beauties.

Now for a brief character analysis of the members of this group, we can apparently begin with Flora Santos, the most experienced of them.

Flora is an intelligent student in Form 3A St. John's Secondary School, Tuaran. She has a pleasing but stern character. Flora can speak very good English and sings soprano in the group. She says that her pastime is singing and music.

Sylvia Batin is a Form 4 student of the same school in Tuaran — a hard working student. She sings the tenor part in the group. Her hobbies are travelling, singing and music in general.

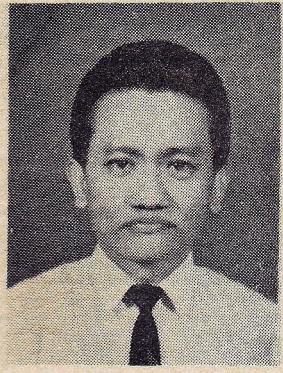
Diana Wong sings the alto in D'Tuareans. She is the youngest and apparently has a bright look — perhaps one day Diana may become a beautiful film



Celestina Hiu

star. Like the others, Diana too studies in St. John's School, Tuaran in Form 2. Her hobbies are identical to Sylvia's.

Sylvia told me that the group was formed very informally during a Church choir meeting just before Easter. The centre of discussion was Bintang RTM. With the exchange of opinion it was decided that they could form a group.



G.O. Batin

One would wonder whether RTM Kota Kinabalu could spare some time on the development of the more resourceful groups more seriously through greater en-

couragement and incentives. Some Radio Programme organisers must be praised for the high standard of work, for instance, the programmes produced by Iskandar Shyam needs much praise. Such hard working and devoted members of RTM must be given further encouragement and incentives, to produce programmes for both TV and Radio.

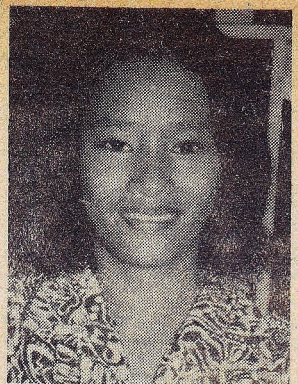
The initial development of D'Tuareans was through the help of one Miss Josephine Chin of RTM Kota Kinabalu.

Sylvia added that there were a few architects involved in the development of D'Tuareans. They include particularly Mr. G.O. Batin, Miss Celestina Hiu and Miss Maria Wong.

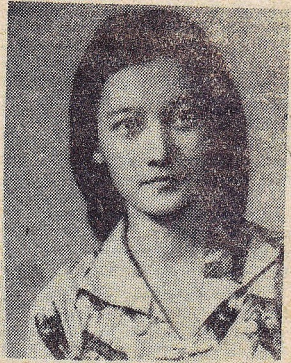
Mr. Batin is a teacher and voracious musician. Celestina Hiu is a school secretary. The two seem to be the main cohesive factor in D'Tuareans solidarity and goodwill, although Maria too seems to be of some importance.

According to Sylvia, Mr. Batin and Miss Celestina together with Maria, advise the group regularly. More important, they help in the voice harmonization, action, dressing and all other factors that influence the development and popularity of a singing group. It must be admitted that the D'Tuareans have a solid base.

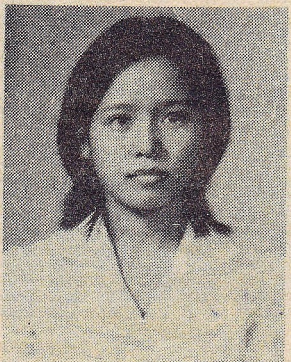
Incidentally D'Tuareans stands for nothing but the Tuaran Group. All three, Flora, Sylvia and Diana seem to agree on many of



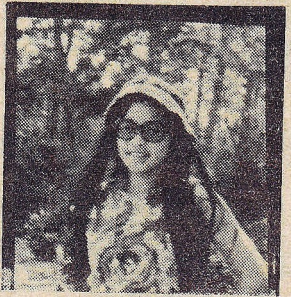
Sylvia Batin



Diana Wong



Flora Santos



Maria

their aims — they must continue to sing, they must **SEE PAGE 11.**



take part in competition to prove their competence, and at all cost they must become a popular group not only locally but nationally. This was proved recently when the D'Tuareans became Sabah's best singing group and represented Sabah in Bintang RTM, held in Malacca at the national level.

Only one thing can be stated concretely — the future is very bright for this young group of singers. Internal unity between the 3 singers is very binding and the advice given by Mr. G. Batin and others must deserve special mention.

It goes without saying that to date, the kindness, understanding and encouragement given by RTM Kota Kinabalu programme Organisers, staff and the others have paid off well.