Mandela at the opening ceremony of the 60th FIFA Congress here Wednesday.

The 60th FIFA Congress will take place on Thursday and an opening ceremony was arranged a day before.

During the ceremony, South African president Zuma said: “Nelson Mandela worked hard that we should win the right to host this tournament. We dedicate the World Cup to him.”

Tragedy

lated to recreation and culture, and others that occupy their limited free time in the midst of the duties that take up a large portion of their time dedicated to daily chores.

Shortly, the Football World Cup to be contested in South Africa will take up all of their free hours as they follow with growing excitement the vicissitudes of the most popular characters.

They will follow every step taken by Maradona and remember the spectacular goal he scored that determined Argentina’s victory in one of the classics. Again, another Argentinian is coming up spectacularly; he is a short man but he is very fast, he whizzes like a lightning and with his head he is very fast, he whizzes like an Argentinean is coming up spectacularly.

The fans imagination goes wild with the images of the numerous stadiums where the competitions take place. The architects and designers have created works never dreamed of by the public.

The governments, forced to go from one meeting to another to discharge the obligations that the new times have placed on their shoulders, have no time to know the mountain of news constantly carried by radio, television and the printed press. Almost everything depends exclusively of the information provided by their advisers. Some of the most powerful and important Heads of State, who make the fundamental decisions, customarily use the cell phones to communicate among them several times a day.

An increasing number of millions of people in the world live attached to such devices even though no one knows the effect they will have on human health.

This soffens the envy we could feel for not being able to enjoy such possibilities in our day that Mandela will greet players and fans briefly at the opening ceremony.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said the World Cup was a love story between him, his organization and the African continent and the love story will culminate at Friday’s opening game. Two hundred and eight member associations of FIFA made their appearance at the congress, which will talk about the 2009 activity results, FIFA Financial Report and budget estimates for 2011-2014.

High hopes: Nelson Mandela played a huge role in South Africa’s World Cup bid and there is said to be a ‘great chance’ of his presence on Friday.

There have been doubts about whether the former president, 92 next month, would be able to attend the event at Soccer City, but his determination to see the start of a tournament he played a huge role in delivering for his country may see him appear in person.

Organising Committee chief executive Danny Jordaan said this morning that there is “a great chance” Mandela will attend for at least a short time.

Comparing the anticipation on the eve of the World Cup to Mandela’s release from prison in 1990 and the achievement of universal suffrage in 1994, Jordaan said: “We have to remember that Nelson Mandela is 92. But he wants to be there, and as things stand there is a great chance that in fact he will be there. We will just be happy if he is able to show his face,” Jordaan said.

“Whether he stays five minutes or for the whole match is not our decision. It would be the cherry on the cake, but the cake isiced and it is ready.”

Mandela was a key figure in South Africa’s successful bid for the World Cup and his presence in the stadium would deliver a further boost to the mounting excitement here.

Jackson

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ator.

When we were reenacted back home in 1989, I vividly recall the day when we were at Thuringer Hof Hotel having a drink and had to interview him for a story that later appeared in my cultural page of the then-revived Namibia Today. I remember that somewhere in the said story I indicated that “beautiful melodies never die” but continue to echo around the globe long after the singer/composer is gone from us.

Attending music shows where Kaujeua was the star attraction abroad made hundreds of us truly proud to be Namibians. It is also significant to note that Swapo appreciated his music and allowed him to fight with his “gun” instead of the gun. He travelled around globe placing his motherland musically on the map, later did it together with the Ndjimba Cultural Troupe.

As the sun rises above the mountains of Owitoto everyday, some proud Namibian man, woman or child will be singing one of his songs. Some of us may be listening to Kaujeua’s music on the car radio as we go to work. His music will continue to echo throughout the land of the brave and the people he so much love.

Rest in peace JK.

Some fastest players at 2010 World Cup

The consequences of the US imperial impositions could be catastrophic and affect every inhabitant of the planet much more than all of the economic crises combined.