

# **WORLD RANKED CRUISERWEIGHT KEVIN LERENA KICKS OFF HUGE 2017!!**

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA (December 29, 2016) World ranked cruiserweight KEVIN "THE KO KID" LERENA, (16-1-0, 8 KO's) kicks off his 2017 campaign towards a world title in style on Saturday, February 4 with his triumphant return to South Africa's premier boxing venue, Emperors Palace against VIKAPITA "BEAST MASTER" MERORO, (28-5-0, 14 KO's) of Windhoek, Namibia.

Presented by Rodney Berman's Golden Gloves of South Africa, advance tickets for THUNDER AND LIGHTNING, may be purchased by calling 078-457-3030.

Sporting movie-star looks, the 24-year-old Lerena will be making his fourth straight appearance at Emperors Palace having thrilled the boxing crowd in his three victories in 2016.

"I can't wait for the New Year, the path to a world title is in front of me, my promoter Rodney Berman is getting me the right fights and my world rankings will support a title shot in the future," said Lerena following a sparring session under the watchful eye of trainer Peter Smith.

Said Berman, "Kevin has stardom written all over him, we've got big plans in 2017 for him. Putting him in the right fights, securing his position in the world rankings of the sanctioning bodies and working with Banner Promotions in the US to secure him a major stateside fight in the coming year."

"We are excited to be co-promoting Kevin with Rodney Berman and Golden Gloves. Rodney has only brought us the cream of the crop, "said Artie Pelullo, President and CEO of Banner

Promotions. "Kevin is a quality fighter, who has shown he has championship ability. We look forward to him getting closer to a world title opportunity with a big win on February 4."

"I'm as excited about Kevin's future as I've ever been of all the fighters I've worked with, cruiserweight is a very exciting division in boxing currently."

Lerena is currently world ranked #5 by the World Boxing Organization and #11 by the World Boxing Council.

Most recently, Lerena, performing brilliantly from start to finish, winning a hard-fought ten round decision over the undefeated Micki Nielsen on October 22, 2016, earning the critically lauded Super 4 Tournament Championship.

In the first round of the Super 4 Tournament Championship, Lerena won a ten round unanimous decision over Roberto Bolonti on June 11, 2016.

Kicking off his 2016 campaign on April 24, 2016, the southpaw won the South African Cruiserweight Title with a tenth round knockout of Johnny Muller. The stoppage avenged a ten round decision loss in 2014 to Muller.