

## **OIL AND GAS RULINGS A WIN FOR KZN FARMS**

KWAZULU-NATAL farmers have won yet another victory, after a Pretoria high court interdicted the mineral resources minister from issuing exploration rights to Rhino Oil and Gas.

In a statement, the Kwa-Zulu-Natal Agriculture Union (Kwanalu) said the ruling was against issuing the exploration rights to Rhino Oil and Gas in the Midlands region.

Last month saw the Western Cape High Court rule against Rhino Oil and Gas and the South African Agency for Promotion of Petroleum and Exploitation (Pasa) in their bid to search for oil and gas in the Northern KZN region.

The statement said while the ruling was an interim interdict, it remains another victory for KZN farmers.

In the statement, Kwanalu director Sandy la Marque said the threat of mineral and gas exploration first became a reality in late 2015, when Rhino Oil and Gas submitted their notice of application for exploration in the Midlands area of KZN.

"In 2016 a second application was submitted for exploration in Northern KZN," said La Marque.

"Both applications covered a total area of more than 1,6 million ha and in excess of 15 000 farms.

"We know that there is still a long road ahead in dealing with the matter but we are elated with both rulings," she said.

— Witness Reporter.