

# Herbert gives up bid, wants time with kids

By Rio N. Araja

**Q**UEZON City Mayor **Herbert Bautista** has given up seeking an elective position in the 2019 midterm polls in favor of spending time with his three children, a key aide said.

Ares Gutierrez, Public Affairs and Information Services Office chief, said that hours before the last day of filing on Wednesday, Bautista told him he would no longer file his certificate of candidacy.

Members of the media had waited for the mayor to arrive at the Commission

on Elections office on North Avenue, believing he would run for vice mayor or congressman.

At around 6:15 pm, or over an hour past the deadline of filing CoCs, Gutierrez confirmed that Bautista was no longer interested in running.

He said the mayor, in the past few months, was “consistent” in telling him and his closest friends that he has not given much time to his children because of his political career.

“[The mayor] was telling me he has not seen his children grow,” Gutierrez said.

Bautista, who is on his third and last

term as mayor, was being touted to run for Congress against District 3 Councilor Allan Benedict Reyes, an independent candidate.

He earlier told the **Manila Standard** that he was toying with the idea of sliding down to vice mayor or seeking a seat in the House of Representatives, as the law limits elective officials to three successive terms only.

**City Secretary** to the Mayor Tadeo Palma and Bautista’s personal secretary Sahlee Francisco told the **Manila Standard** they had no direct knowledge if Bautista would file and what time he would submit his CoC.

“I have reminded the mayor that today [Wednesday] is the last day for filing. All he said to me was, ‘yes, I know,’” Gutierrez told the **Standard** at the launch of the Smart Sustainable City Summit at Vertis North.